ACTIVITY REPORT
OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

2000-2001

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OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

2000-2001

This publication was accomplished with the collaboration of the executive personnel and staff from all administrative branches of the National Assembly. Unless otherwise indicated, the data provided in this report concerns the activities of the National Assembly from 1 April 2000 to 31 March 2001.

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PREFACE

Daniel Lessard

For a second consecutive year, I am pleased to release the *Activity Report of the National Assembly of Québec* for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2001.

Ever mindful of the need for transparency, it is equally important for me to provide a report on the work accomplished in order that our democracy, which is in constant evolution, continue to thrive. Hence, this second annual assessment of the work of the Members and of the personnel of the Assembly will be helpful, I trust, in acquainting the reader with the various initiatives which have contributed to its development during the past year.

In this regard, the work of the Members guarantees the health of representative democracy. During these twelve months of activity, the Members of the National Assembly sat for over 435 hours in the Blue Room and for 1395 hours in various standing committees for the purpose of hearing, consulting, examining, questioning, discussing, debating, assessing, reevaluating, negotiating, amending, correcting, improving and, ultimately, choosing to adopt or to reject decisions that affect the women and men of our society. In the course of their work, the members of the standing committees heard 548 groups and individuals who came before them to present their points of view on the many issues under consideration and consultation by the Québec Members of Parliament.

The consideration of topics of international scope will no doubt take up, in the future, more and more time on the part of the Members of the National Assembly and will henceforth be at the heart of the functioning of our representative democracy. The general consultation undertaken by the members of the Committee on Institutions, on the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), as well as the organization of a symposium on globalization and cultural diversity, by the members of the Committee on Culture, are part of this emerging trend. This is also true in the field of interparliamentary exchanges, an indication of an increasingly widespread will, in a world that is highly interdependent, to see elected representatives from all ideological tendencies come together and establish close links in order to improve the common good and the consolidation of representative democracy.

The interest of the population in our parliamentary institutions was once again made clear during the past year. Indeed, close to 150,000 visitors entered the premises of the National Assembly, while 8830 persons in Baie-Comeau and 5000 in Drummondville visited the stand of the National Assembly at the *Salons Info-Services*. Furthermore, in order to strengthen exchanges between the Members of the National Assembly and the population and thus contribute to the development of democracy in Québec, the Assembly pursued its educational activities by organizing simulations for young people and senior citizens.

With regard to the administration, the National Assembly undertook a reform with a view to providing better support to the Members so that they may carry out more adequately their duties as legislators and controllers of the executive power and the public administration. This reform falls within the vast modernization plan of the Government of Québec. Its aim is to render more efficient the administrative operations of the Assembly by establishing more precise objectives to attain, with measurable performance standards, while providing the employees with more stimulating challenges.

Thus, whether it be through the work of the Members and of the personnel, or through its various activities, the National Assembly, on a day-by-day basis, sees to the establishment of better living conditions for all citizens. That is the ultimate goal of politics and democracy.

Consequently, I hope that this *Activity Report of the National Assembly of Québec 2000-2001* will succeed in demonstrating the efforts that have been made in order to maintain and consolidate representative democracy in Québec for the benefit of the entire population.

Enjoy your reading!

The President of the National Assembly,

Jean-Pierre Charbonneau

FOREWORD

Daniel Lessard

This edition of the activity report continues along the lines of the preceding report, both in style and in content. By the same token, it has the additional advantage of being enriched by the positive comments received from the readers of the previous issue.

We owe the preparation of this sizeable source of information to a group of employees from the various administrative branches, who knowledgeably put together the essential elements of information, and to the collaboration of the employees of the Assembly as a whole, who kindly provided the answers to the questions asked of them.

The annual report of the Assembly provides an overview of the activities of Members in their role as legislators, controllers and representatives on various levels. It also evokes the contribution of the employees in the accomplishment of these activities. In this respect, it may be useful here to mention the mission of the administration of the Assembly: to provide Members with the support that is essential to the fulfillment of legislative power as a whole. It must be said that the employees of the Assembly are proud to be a part of the most important component of the State and they strive to fulfill their duties in the most efficient way possible.

This report relates a large number of activities that have marked the year 2000-2001. Among these, it is important to mention the significant administrative reorganization that came about with the adoption, by the Office of the Assembly, of the new *Administrative Organization Plan* on 14 December 2000. Once the plan established, an operation aiming to determine the strategic orientations of the entire organization for 2001-2004 was immediately undertaken. This exercise, which has not reached completion as yet, allows each member of the Assembly staff, regardless of his or her level of hierarchy, to make a contribution in building an organization that must rest on a solid foundation.

Several events, of a more or less spectacular nature, have also highlighted the past year. To mention but a few, the publication entitled *La procédure parlementaire du Québec* (Parliamentary procedure in Québec), the Seniors' Parliament, the exterior lighting of the Parliament Buildings, the seminar on the organization of our Assembly that was held for the secretaries general of Benin, Burkina Faso, Madagascar and Mali, and finally, an element worthy of mention, the retirement of 32 employees and the recruiting of 22 new staff members.

I leave it to you to read this report with all of the curiosity that it may arouse and invite you to send us your comments.

The Secretary General,

Pierre Duchesne

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The National Assembly is composed of 125 Members who are elected in each of the electoral divisions of Québec and it holds its sittings in the *Parliament Building*. The National Assembly, which passes legislation, and the Lieutenant-Governor, who gives royal assent thereto, constitute the judicial base of Parliament. The Premier and the Government Ministers (as at 31 March 2001, a group of 24 persons) form the Executive Council, also called the Cabinet or, simply, the Executive.

Québec is currently in its 36th Legislature. A legislature consists in the period between two general elections and it may last no longer than 5 years; thus, there have been 36 general elections held in Québec from 1867 to 1998.

There may be several sessions within a legislature. On 9 March 2001, the First Session of the 36th Legislature was prorogued and, on the following 22 March, the Second Session was opened. Every session begins with the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech and the Opening Speech delivered by the Premier and concludes with the prorogation of proceedings, without any limit of time being set between these two events.

THE THREE POWERS OF THE STATE

LEGISLATIVE POWER	EXECUTIVE POWER	JUDICIAL POWER
Examines, discusses, amends and passes laws.	Determines policies to guide the actions of the State.	Interprets the laws passed by the legislative power.
***	***	***
Exercises a control over the action of the executive power.	Administers and controls the State in accordance with the laws passed by the legislative power.	Decides whether a citizen or a group has acted in accordance with the law.
Parliament	**Government**	**Courts**

STAGES OF A BILL

Standing Order 229 of the National Assembly's Standing Orders and Other Rules of Procedure stipulates that there are 5 stages in the consideration of a bill, which are as follows:

Introduction
reading of the explanatory notes or a summary thereof, briefly explaining the purposes of the bill; takes place during the Routine Proceedings of a sitting of the Assembly.

Passage in Principle
debate on the expediency, principles, and merits of the bill, and on alternative means of achieving its purpose; takes place during the Orders of the Day of a sitting of the Assembly.

Committee Stage
debate on the content of the bill: each clause is given consideration and amendments may be proposed; one or several sittings in parliamentary committee or in Committee of the Whole may be held.

Report Stage
debate on the report and, if applicable, on the amendments that Members may have proposed in the hours following its tabling; takes place during the Orders of the Day of a sitting of the Assembly.

Passage
debate on the content of the bill during which time only the sponsor of the said bill may propose amendments; takes place during the Orders of the Day of a sitting of the Assembly.

In the hours or days following the passage of a bill at the Assembly, the Lieutenant-Governor or, in her absence, the Administrator of Québec (required to be a judge of the Court of Appeal of Québec), gives royal assent to the bill; this is the final parliamentary stage, thus enabling a bill to become law and to come into force on the same day or at a future date fixed by the Government.

The Mission of the National Assembly

Parliamentary tradition recognizes two fundamental roles of parliamentary assemblies: that of legislating in the areas of their jurisdiction and that of exercising control over the executive power and the public administration. Assembly Members are also called upon to examine current issues. In faithful pursuance of this parliamentary tradition, the following is a brief overview* of the work accomplished by the National Assembly from April 2000 to March 2001:

** For those who are interested in statistics, it is possible to consult a detailed summary on the Internet site of the National Assembly, under the heading "Parliamentary Proceedings". http://www.assnat.qc.ca/eng/publications/index.html (available in French only)*

To enact laws in the areas of its jurisdiction

The National Assembly passed:

78 bills

65	Government bills	... 48 % of which were passed unanimously
2	Private Members' public bills	... both passed unanimously
11	private bills	... 91 % of which were passed unanimously

89 days

Is the average delay between the introduction of a Government bill and its passage.

5638 pages

In the *Annual Statutes Compilation*, covering the 2000 calendar **year**.

To control the actions of the Government and of its administration

In order to fulfill this mission, the Members dispose of two forums: the Assembly, particularly during Oral Question Period, which is by far the control method that the population is the most familiar with, and parliamentary committees, for example, during the examination of estimates or hearings of deputy ministers and heads of agencies who are accountable for their management. Traditionally, this responsibililty of control has been mainly assumed by the Members in Opposition.

52 h. 30

were set aside for Oral Questions and Answers at the Assembly

531 main questions

were asked...

93 %	by the Official Opposition
5 %	by the Independent Member
2 %	by Government Members

729 supplementary questions

were allowed by the President and distributed as follows:

Official Opposition:	677
Independent:	42
Government:	10

26 written questions

were placed on the *Order Paper and Notices*. The Standing Orders provide for this type of question in the following cases:

1) the matters discussed do not justify an immediate answer;
2) the answers require some research.

To decide on matters of public interest

Whether it be by placing a motion on the *Order Paper* or by moving a motion without notice during the Routine Proceedings of a sitting, the Members enable the Assembly to rule on important matters and to express opinions. Here are a few examples taken from the 2000-2001 fiscal year:

The **motion** is a procedure by which a Member proposes that the Assembly decide on a question.

11 motions were placed on the *Order Paper* and discussed.

Among the subjects debated:

- the municipal mergers;
- the funding of public health and social services;
- the socioeconomic situation of the Québec regions;
- the eradication of poverty.

119 motions without notice were carried.

The Assembly marked, among other events:

- Québec Volunteer Week;
- the 60th anniversary of Québec women's right to vote;
- the twenty award winners of the Gala des Phénix de l'environnement (environmental award);
- the death of Maurice Richard, great hockey champion;
- the grand prize at the Queen Elisabeth International Music Competition of Belgium, which was won by the Québec mezzo-contralto Marie-Nicole Lemieux;
- the winners of the Mérite national agricole du Québec (agricultural award) for the year 2000;
- the 30th anniversary of the Régime d'assurance maladie du Québec (Quebec Health Insurance system);
- the 100th anniversary of the founding of the first Caisse populaire Desjardins;
- the Armenian Genocide, which occurred in 1915.

The Members

Distribution of seats according to political parties represented in the National Assembly as at 31 March 2001:

Parti Québécois	PQ	72
Québec Liberal Party	LIB.	48
Action démocratique du Québec	Ind.	1

4 vacant seats

In the National Assembly, women hold **24 %** of the seats:

PQ 19 **Lib. 10**

Nine women are members of the Cabinet; they compose **39 %** of the Executive.

Anniversaries of Members' political careers

20th anniversary:
Mr. Jacques Baril
Mr. Pierre Paradis

15th anniversary:
Mrs. Monique Gagnon-Tremblay
Mrs. Cécile Vermette
Mr. André Boulerice
Mr. Jacques Chagnon
Mr. Jean-Claude Gobé
Mr. Bernard Landry

Section 16 of the *Act respecting the National Assembly* stipulates that a Member may resign his seat verbally at a sitting of the Assembly. He may also resign in a writing countersigned by two other Members and sent to the President or the Secretary General of the Assembly. If a Member resigns in writing, the President must so inform the Assembly at its next sitting.

Four Members, elected under the Parti Québécois and members of the Executive Council, resigned in writing during the last fiscal year:

Robert Perreault
(Mercier)
12 Sept. 1994 -
6 Oct. 2000

Jean-Pierre Jolivet
(Laviolette)
15 Nov. 1976 -
7 March 2001

Lucien Bouchard
(Jonquière)
19 Feb. 1996 -
8 March 2001

Jacques Léonard
(Labelle)
15 Nov. 1976 -
23 May 1985 /
25 Sept. 1989 -
8 March 2001

The role of a Member in his constituency

In addition to being a legislator and a controller of the State, the Member is also a representative of the people in the constituency where he was elected. In order to help him act as intermediary between the public administration and the citizens, he disposes of a budget that is required for the rental of an office in his riding, where he can meet the population.

It is also the duty of the Member to defend before the ministries and public servants responsible for the granting of the State's financial resources the needs of the citizens in his constitutuency in all areas where the State is involved, be it housing, hospital equipment, sports and culture or subsidies to businesses.

In the same manner, groups representing local communities (municipal councils, school boards) or specific groups within the population of his riding (business persons, cultural groups, farmers, young people) frequently meet with him in order to voice their opinion, to ask for or provide information, to obtain help or services. Often, the Member will guide these persons through the administrative steps or he will inform them on governmental services that are at their disposal.

OF THE

BERNARD LANDRY
Premier
Verchères

ANDRE BOISCLAIR
Deputy Government House Leader
Gouin

DENISE CARRIER-PERREAULT
Deputy Government House Leader
Chutes-de-la-Chaudière

JACQUES BRASSARD
Government House Leader
Lac-Saint-Jean

MICHEL MORIN
Chief Government Whip
Nicolet-Yamaska

MICHEL CÔTÉ
Deputy Government Whip
La Peltrie

MANON BLANCHET
Deputy Government Whip
Crémazie

MAXIME ARSENEAU
Îles-de-la-Madeleine

DIANE BARBEAU
Vanier

GILLES BARIL
Berthier

JACQUES BARIL
Arthabaska

LOUISE BEAUDOIN
Chambly

FRANÇOIS BEAULNE
Marguerite-D'Youville

YVES BEAUMIER
Champlain

STÉPHANE BÉDARD
Chicoutimi

PAUL BÉGIN
Louis-Hébert

JEAN-PAUL BERGERON
Iberville

ROGER BERTRAND
Portneuf

ROSAIRE BERTRAND
Charlevoix

CLAUDE BOUCHER
Johnson

ANDRÉ BOULERICE
Sainte-Marie-Saint-Jacques

MARC BOULIANNE
Frontenac

JOCELYNE CARON
Terrebonne

SOLANGE CHAREST
Rimouski

GUY CHEVRETTE
Jolette

DAVID CLICHE
Vimont

JACQUES CÔTÉ
Dubuc

CLAUDE COUSINEAU
Bertrand

RÉMY DESILETS
Maskinongé

SERGE DESJARDINS
Salaberry-Soulanges

LÉANDRE DION
Saint-Hyacinthe

RITA DIONNE-MARSOLAIS
Rosemont

DANIELLE DOYER
Matapédia

NORMAND DUGUAY
Duplessis

JOSEPH FACAL
Fabre

GABRIEL-YVAN GAGNON
Saguenay

FRANÇOIS GENDRON
Abitibi-Ouest

SERGE GEOFFRION
La Prairie

LINDA GOUPIL
Lévis

LOUISE HAREL
Hochelaga-Maisonneuve

GUY JULIEN
Trois-Rivières

NORMAND JUTRAS
Drummond

ROBERT KIEFFER
Groulx

GILLES LABBÉ
Masson

CLAUDE LACHANCE
Bellechasse

BENOÎT LAPRISE
Roberval

LYSE LEDUC
Mille-Îles

FRANÇOIS LEGAULT
Rousseau

NICOLE LÉGER
Pointe-aux-Trembles

GUY LELIÈVRE
Gaspé

DIANE LEMIEUX
Bourget

MICHEL LÉTOURNEAU
Ungava

AGNÈS MALTAIS
Taschereau

PAULINE MAROIS
Taillon

SERGE MÉNARD
Laval-des-Rapides

LUCIE PAPINEAU
Prevost

ROGER PAQUIN
Saint-Jean

JEAN-GUY PARÉ
Lotbinière

DAVID PAYNE
Vachon

ANDRÉ PELLETIER
Abitibi-Est

MATTHIAS ROUX
Matane

HÉLÈNE ROBERT
Deux-Montagnes

JEAN ROCHON
Charlesbourg

CÉLINE SIGNORI
Blainville

JEAN-FRANÇOIS SIMARD
Montmorency

SYLVAIN SIMARD
Richelieu

JEAN-CLAUDE ST-ANDRÉ
L'Assomption

REMY TRUDEL
Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue

CÉCILE VERMETTE
Marie-Victorin

E MEMBERS

GISLATURE AS AT 31 MARCH 2001

JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU
esident of the National Assembly
Borduas

RAYMOND BROUILLET
First Vice-President
Chauveau

CLAUDE PINARD
Second Vice-President
Saint-Maurice

MICHEL BISSONNET
Third Vice-President
Jeanne-Mance

JEAN J. CHAREST
Leader of the Official Opposition
Sherbrooke

THOMAS J. MULCAIR
Deputy Opposition
House Leader
Chomedey

PIERRE PARADIS
Opposition
House Leader
Brome-Missisquoi

JEAN-MARC FOURNIER
Chief Opposition
Whip
Châteauguay

NORMAN MACMILLAN
Deputy Opposition
Whip
Papineau

LINE BEAUCHAMP
Sauvé

CLAUDE BÉCHARD
Kamouraska-Témiscouata

MADELEINE BÉLANGER
Mégantic-Compton

ROBERT BENOIT
Orford

LAWRENCE S. BERGMAN
D'Arcy McGee

YVAN BORDELEAU
Acadie

ANDRÉ BOURBEAU
Laporte

BERNARD BRODEUR
Shefford

JACQUES CHAGNON
Westmount-Saint-Louis

ANDRÉ CHENAIL
Beauharnois-Huntingdon

ROCH CHOLETTE
Hull

RUSSELL COPEMAN
Notre-Dame-de-Grâce

WILLIAM CUSANO
Viau

MARGARET F. DELISLE
Jean-Talon

MICHEL DESPRÉS
Limoilou

JACQUES P. DUPUIS
Saint-Laurent

MONIQUE GAGNON-TREMBLAY
Saint-François

HENRI-FRANÇOIS GAUTRIN
Verdun

RÉAL GAUVIN
Montmagny-L'Islet

JEAN-CLAUDE GOBÉ
LaFontaine

FATIMA HOUDA-PEPIN
La Prairie

MONIQUE JÉRÔME-FORGET
Marguerite-Bourgeoys

GEOFFREY KELLEY
Jacques-Cartier

REJEAN LAFRENIÈRE
Gatineau

JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAMOUREUX
Anjou

MICHÈLE LAMQUIN-ÉTHIER
Bourassa

PIERRE-ÉTIENNE LAPORTE
Outremont

DIANE LEBLANC
Beauce-Sud

NICOLE LOISELLE
Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne

COSMO MACIOCIA
Viger

YVON MARCOUX
Vaudreuil

PIERRE MARSAN
Robert-Baldwin

ROBERT MIDDLEMISS
Pontiac

NATHALIE NORMANDEAU
Bonaventure

FRANÇOIS OUIMET
Marquette

BENOIT PELLETIER
Chapleau

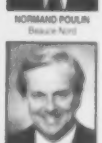
NORMAND POULIN
Beauce-Nord

CHRISTOS SIRROS
Laurier-Dorion

ANDRÉ TRANCHEMONTAGNE
Mont-Royal

YVON VALLIÈRES
Richmond

DAVID WHISSELL
Argenteuil



RUSSELL WILLIAMS
Nelligan

MARIO DUMONT
Rivière-du-Loup

The seating plan of the Assembly as at 31 March 2001

Government
The group of Members whose party won the majority of seats in a general election; their leader becomes the Premier, and he chooses, among the Members, those who shall become Ministers.

Opposition
The group of Members who are not members of the parliamentary group forming the Government.

Official Opposition
Group of Members having been elected under the political party that won the second-largest number of seats in a general election; the leader of this parliamentary group becomes the Leader of the Official Opposition.

Independent
A Member of Parliament who is not a member of a recognized political party or who, during a term of office, leaves a group without joining another. An independent Member may join a parliamentary group at any time during a legislature.

President
He is elected amongst the Members for the duration of a legislature. The duties of the office of President are threefold: he ensures that the Standing Orders are observed and that the rights and privileges of the National Assembly and of its Members are protected during each sitting; he oversees the services of the Assembly; he represents the Assembly in Québec and abroad in its relations with other Parliaments.

Vice-Presidents
They are elected by their peers for the duration of one legislature and assist the President in his duties. They enjoy the same prerogatives and the same authority as the latter when they replace him in his parliamentary functions.

Leader
A Member who is responsible for the parliamentary action of his party.

House Leader
A Member who is chosen by his Leader and who is responsible for establishing the parliamentary strategies of his group.

Deputy House Leader
A Member who assists and replaces the Government House Leader in his functions.

Whip
A Member, chosen by his Leader or elected by his peers, who is responsible for discipline within his group and who coordinates the action of Members in the Assembly, in committees and within delegations.

Deputy Whip
A Member who assists and replaces the whip in his functions.

◇ Leader of the Official Opposition

□ Opposition House Leader

△ Chief Opposition Whip

* Civil Servants

● Vice-President

◆ Premier

■ Government House Leader

▲ Chief Government Whip

▩ Ministers

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△ Chief Opposition Whip

• Civil Servants

● Vice-President

◆ Premier

■ Government House Leader

▲ Chief Government Whip

▩ Ministers

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND PARLIAMENTARY WORK

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND

PARLIAMENTARY WORK

Assessment of a year in the Assembly and in committees

Each working day, both in the Assembly and in the standing committees, is called a sitting. The Standing Orders of the National Assembly establish a calendar of sittings that is concentrated in two periods: the first one begins on the second Tuesday in March and lasts until 23 June at the latest, and the second period is from the third Tuesday in October until 21 December at the latest. The Standing Orders also provide for "intensive periods" of work, during which an extra sitting day is added to the weekly schedule and the sitting hours are extended. Within this time frame, the sittings take place on the days and during the hours indicated hereafter:

Schedule	Ordinary session	Intensive session 25 May to 23 June / 25 Nov. to 21 Dec.
Monday	*if motion by House Leader:* 2.00 to 6.00 p.m.	*if motion by House Leader:* following hours
Tuesday Wednesday Thursday	10 a.m. to 12 p.m. / 2.00 to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 1 p.m. / 3 to 6 p.m. / 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.
Friday		

The standing committees may hold sittings at any time of the year. It should be noted that the committees may not sit while the Assembly is taking Routine Proceedings. The following is the calendar of committee proceedings provided for in the Standing Orders:

Schedule	Ordinary session	Intensive session 25 May to 23 June / 25 Nov. to 21 Dec.
Monday	2.00 to 6.00 p.m.	10 a.m. to 1 p.m. / 3 to 6 p.m. / 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.
Tuesday Wednesday Thursday	9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. / 2 to 6 p.m.	
Friday	9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	

Extraordinary sittings

When a sitting of the Assembly does not take place within the periods, days or hours provided for in the Standing Orders, this is known as an "extraordinary sitting". Only the Premier has the authority to request that the President of the Assembly convene such a sitting. The Assembly met twice for extraordinary sittings in 2000-2001:

- on 22 February 2001, a sitting was convened at the request of the Premier, Mr. Lucien Bouchard, in order to adopt Bill 186, An Act to provide for the maintenance of pharmaceutical services in Québec;

- on 30 March 2001, a sitting was convened at the request of the Premier, Mr. Bernard Landry, in order to allow the consideration in Committee of the Whole of the Supplementary Estimates # 2 of the expenditure budget for 2001-2002, the passage of the ensuing bills and the adoption of a motion by the Assembly to refer all budgetary estimates, excepting those of the Assembly, to the several standing committees for consideration.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Routine Proceedings
Part of the sitting set aside mainly for information to Members; the introduction of bills, the tabling of documents, oral questions and answers, and motions without notice are some of the items of business dealt with during this period.

Orders of the Day
Part of the sitting set aside for debates, particularly on the budget, on bills, on reports from committees and on Opposition Members' motions.

PETITION:
The right of citizens to petition the Assembly is a fundamental principle of the *Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms*. Thus, any person or group of persons may, through a Member, petition the Assembly for the redress of a situation deemed unfair.

To be in order, a petition must:
- be addressed to the National Assembly;
- contain a clear statement of facts (clear, concise, accurate and set forth in temperate terms) and must request the intervention of the Assembly;
- come within the competence of the Assembly;
- be an original copy, hand-written, typed or printed on sheets of paper (legal or letter size);
- contain the original signature of every petitioner;
- be presented by a Member.

The following table provides concurrently the monthly data regarding sittings held and work hours completed in the Assembly and in committees in the course of 2000-2001.

	Assembly		Committees	
	sittings	*hours*	*sittings*	*hours*
April	9	25:58	48	170:00
May	14	72:13	57	189:00
June	10	86:31	52	156:00
July	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	14	53:00
September	0	0	37	152:00
October	7	39:28	44	143:00
November	14	97:04	58	144:00
December	11	72:18	57	198:00
January	0	0	10	48:00
February	1	6:46	33	125:00
March	5	35:04	15	17:00

In the Assembly	71 sittings 435 h. 22 min.

In committees	425 sittings 1395 hours

All papers tabled during a sitting of the Assembly are recorded in the *Votes and Proceedings;* these papers are thus released and become part of the archives of the Assembly, where they may be consulted as may be required. The following is an overview of the **747** papers that were tabled this year:

795 documents
were tabled in the standing committees in 2000-2001, including 533 briefs.

• Mission reports	6	1 %
• Answers to written questions placed on the *Order Paper*	14	2 %
• Reports from the Law Clerk	17	2 %
• Decisions from the Office of the Assembly	41	5 %
• Petitions (**577,166** petitioners)	75	10 %
• Committees reports	129	18 %
• Annual reports (ministries and agencies)	232	31 %
• Other documents	233	31 %

The Standing Committees

It is by means of the eleven standing committees that Members may fully exercise their roles as legislators and controllers of governmental activity and the public administration. The terms of reference of the committees and the members thereof, as at 31 March 2001, are listed hereafter, followed by a brief look at the work completed by each of these committees in 2000-2001:

National Assembly

Establishes the Standing Orders of the Assembly and its Rules of Procedure; coordinates the proceedings of the other committees.

Membership:

the President of the Assembly
the vice-presidents of the Assembly
the House leaders and whips of the parliamentary groups
the chairmen of the standing committees

Public Administration

Parliamentary control

Membership:

The chairman	**Geoffrey Kelley (Jacques-Cartier) LIB.**
The vice-chairman	**Hélène Robert (Deux-Montagnes) PQ**

PQ	**LIB.**
Diane Barbeau (Vanier)	**Jacques Chagnon (Westmount-Saint-Louis)**
Rita Dionne-Marsolais (Rosemont)	**Michel Després (Limoilou)**
Michel Létourneau (Ungava)	**Pierre Marsan (Robert-Baldwin)**
Jean-Guy Paré (Lotbinière)	
Cécile Vermette (Marie-Victorin)	

Institutions

Conseil exécutif, justice, public security, intergovernmental relations, and the Constitution

Membership:

The chairman	**Roger Bertrand (Portneuf) PQ**
The vice-chairman	**Henri-François Gautrin (Verdun) LIB.**

PQ	**LIB.**
François Beaulne (Marg.-D'Youville)	**Jacques Dupuis (Saint-Laurent)**
Marc Boulianne (Frontenac)	**Michèle Lamquin-Éthier (Bourassa)**
Jacques Côté (Dubuc)	**Benoît Pelletier (Chapleau)**
Normand Jutras (Drummond)	
Roger Paquin (Saint-Jean)	**IND.**
Céline Signori (Blainville)	**Mario Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup)**

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Chairman
A Member from one of the parliamentary groups, elected by the members of the committee for a two-year term. He organizes, plans and chairs the proceedings of his committee. The chairman of the committee takes part in the debates and has the right to vote.

Vice-chairman
A Member of a parliamentary group other than that of the chairman, also elected by the members of the committee for a two-year term. He assists the chairman in his duties and replaces him when necessary.

Temporary Chairman
Member appointed by the President of the Assembly to preside over, at the request of its chairman or when the Assembly so directs in an order of reference, the debates of a committee. It is the Committee on the National Assembly that approves a list of Members who may act in such capacity. As at 31 March 2001, the list of temporary chairmen is the following:

Diane Barbeau (Vanier) PQ
Jean-Paul Bergeron (Iberville) PQ
Marc Boulianne (Frontenac) PQ
Margaret F. Delisle (Jean-Talon) LIB.
Michel Després (Limoilou) LIB.
Rita Dionne-Marsolais (Rosemont) PQ
Normand Duguay (Duplessis) PQ
Jean-Claude Gobé (LaFontaine) LIB.
Fatima Houda-Pepin (La Pinière) LIB.
Gilles Labbé (Masson) PQ
Nicole Loiselle (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne) LIB.
Roger Paquin (Saint-Jean) PQ
Normand Poulin (Beauce-Nord) LIB.
Jean-Claude Saint-André (L'Assomption) PQ
Céline Signori (Blainville) PQ

Public Finance

Finance, the budget, the public accounts, the public administration, the public service, and supply and services

Membership:

The chairman — Rosaire Bertrand (Charlevoix) PQ
The vice-chairman — Russell Williams (Nelligan) LIB.

PQ
Normand Duguay (Duplessis)
François Gendron (Abitibi-Ouest)
Serge Geoffrion (La Prairie)
Jean-Guy Paré (Lotbinière)
André Pelletier (Abitibi-Est)

LIB.
Fatima Houda-Pepin (La Pinière)
Monique Jérôme-Forget (Marg.-Bourgeoys)
Diane Leblanc (Beauce-Sud)

Social Affairs

The family, health, social and community services, the status of women, and income security

Membership:

The chairman — Monique Gagnon-Tremblay (Saint-François) LIB.
The vice-chairman — Yves Beaumier (Champlain) PQ

PQ
Manon Blanchet (Crémazie)
Jacques Côté (Dubuc)
Claude Cousineau (Bertrand)
Gilles Labbé (Masson)
Jean-Claude Saint-André (L'Assomption)

LIB.
Russell Copeman (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce)
Jean-Marc Fournier (Châteauguay)
Nicole Loiselle (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne)

Labour and the Economy

Industry, trade, tourism, labour, science, technology, energy and resources, and manpower

Membership:

The chairman — Matthias Rioux (Matane) PQ
The vice-chairman — Christos Sirros (Laurier-Dorion) LIB.

PQ
Stéphane Bédard (Chicoutimi)
Rémy Désilets (Maskinongé)
Robert Kieffer (Groulx)
Guy Lelièvre (Gaspé)
David Payne (Vachon)

LIB.
Claude Béchard (Kamouraska-Témiscouata)
Normand Poulin (Beauce-Nord)
André Tranchemontagne (Mont-Royal)

Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Agriculture, fisheries, and food

Membership:

The chairman — Cécile Vermette (Marie-Victorin) PQ
The vice-chairman — Cosmo Maciocia (Viger) LIB.

PQ
Jean-Paul Bergeron (Iberville)
Léandre Dion (Saint-Hyacinthe)
Benoît Laprise (Roberval)
Guy Lelièvre (Gaspé)
Hélène Robert (Deux-Montagnes)

LIB.
André Chenail (Beauharnois-Huntingdon)
Pierre Paradis (Brome-Missisquoi)
David Whissell (Argenteuil)

Planning and the Public Domain

Local communities, municipal planning, housing, and recreation

Membership:

The chairman — Yvon Vallières (Richmond) LIB.
The vice-chairman — Danielle Doyer (Matapédia) PQ

PQ
Solange Charest (Rimouski)
Normand Duguay (Duplessis)
Gabriel-Yvan Gagnon (Saguenay)
Benoît Laprise (Roberval)
Roger Paquin (Saint-Jean)

LIB.
Roch Cholette (Hull)
Réal Gauvin (Montmagny-L'Islet)
François Ouimet (Marquette)

Transportation and the Environment

Transportation, public works, the environment, and wildlife

Membership:

The chairman — Claude Lachance (Bellechasse) PQ
The vice-chairman — Yvan Bordeleau (Acadie) LIB.

PQ
Michel Côté (La Peltrie)
Serge Deslières (Salaberry-Soulanges)
Danielle Doyer (Matapédia)
Gabriel-Yvan Gagnon (Saguenay)
Gilles Labbé (Masson)

LIB.
Robert Benoit (Orford)
Jean-Claude Gobé (Lafontaine)
Réjean Lafrenière (Gatineau)

Again this year, the activities surrounding parliamentary control constituted the major part of the work done in the standing committees, as the following table indicates :

425 sittings

→ Parliamentary control
42 %

Government estimates	27 %
Other	25 %
Accountability	14 %
Surveillance of public agencies	12 %
Initiative	9 %
Financial commitments	8 %
Interpellations	5 %

→ Detailed consideration of bills **37 %**

61 public,
11 private

→ Consultations
21 %

548 groups and individuals came before the committees to express their point of view on various issues.

Education

Education, vocational training, and consumer protection

Membership:

The chairman — Madeleine Bélanger (Mégantic-Compton) LIB.
The vice-chairman — Serge Geoffrion (La Prairie) PQ

PQ
Stéphane Bédard (Chicoutimi)
Solange Charest (Rimouski)
Claude Cousineau (Bertrand)
Rémy Désilets (Maskinongé)
Jean-François Simard (Montmorency)

LIB.
Lawrence S. Bergman (D'Arcy-McGee)
Margaret F. Delisle (Jean-Talon)
Yvon Marcoux (Vaudreuil)

Culture

Culture, communications, cultural communities, immigration, and relations with the citizenry

Membership:

The chairman — Jean-François Simard (Montmorency) PQ
The vice-chairman — William Cusano (Viau) LIB.

PQ
François Beaulne (Marg.-D'Youville)
Jean-Paul Bergeron (Iberville)
Marc Boulianne (Frontenac)
Léandre Dion (Saint-Hyacinthe)
Lyse Leduc (Mille-Îles)

LIB.
Line Beauchamp (Sauvé)
Jean-Sébastien Lamoureux (Anjou)
Pierre-Étienne Laporte (Outremont)

The standing committees were very busy in 2000-2001; the following are a few examples of mandates they undertook:

The general consultation on the **Free Trade Area of the Americas** was the key mandate completed by the Committee on Institutions. This consultation, which was held on the initiative of its members, reached its highest point in September 2000 when the Committee heard 36 witnesses in the course of public hearings. In its report, which was tabled in December, the Committee made 27 recommendations to the National Assembly, as well as to the Governments of Canada and of Québec. A summary of the report was published in four languages. This mandate also led to a first when the Committee held an on-line consultation which enabled citizens to express their opinion on the issue, directly to the Committee, via the Internet site of the National Assembly. Twenty-five opinions were thus transmitted to the members.

The Committee on Public Administration tabled, in June and in December 2000, its sixth and seventh reports **on the accountability of deputy ministers and heads of public agencies.** These reports, stemming from 13 hearings in

matters of accountability, provide 29 recommendations and conclusions addressed to deputy ministers and heads of public agencies. The main subjects having been examined by the Committee are the management of medical biology laboratories, the coordination and funding of health research and social research, the implications of the new provisions of the family policy and gambling.

Within the framework of the order of initiative on **globalization and cultural diversity**, the members of the Committee on Culture decided to organize a seminar, on 8 May 2000, in which over one hundred individuals from the political, artistic, university and cultural sectors came together. This initiative, a first at the National Assembly, not only provided its participants with a veritable forum of discussion, but also enabled a larger number of people to be heard by the Committee. The workshops and plenary sessions dealt with the major themes identified in a study paper published by the Committee on Culture in March 2000 entitled «Mondialisation de l'économie : les enjeux pour le Québec» (Globalization of the economy: the challenges for Québec). This seminar is the first of a series of consultations that the Committee will hold within the framework of this order of initiative on the subject.

In September 2000, the Committee on Public Finance **examined the orientation, activities and management of Loto-Québec**. The exchanges referred to four major themes, namely the management of this agency, its policy vision as well as that of its subsidiaries, and their economic and social impacts. The Committee also concluded, in May 2000, the clause-by-clause consideration of the bill on the public administration, which establishes a new management framework for the Government administration, based particularly on the attainment of results and on the improved accountability of administration directors to the National Assembly.

The bills concerning **municipal issues** led the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain to hold four special consultations. In total, 17 days of public hearings enabled 95 individuals and groups to be heard. No less than 105 briefs were tabled. The issue of municipal mergers was the main subject of these consultations.

One of the significant mandates of the Committee on Transportation and the Environment in 2000-2001 concerned the **taxi transportation industry**. After having held a general consultation in 1999 and then held special consultations in December 2000, the Committee began the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 163, An Act respecting transportation services by taxi, which proposes modifications aiming to improve the services provided by this industry.

In pursuance of a provision contained in the *Act respecting health services and social services*, the Committee on Social Affairs is required to examine the **annual reports of the regional health and social services boards**. During the past year, eight regional boards were thus examined by the Committee, which held public hearings for the purpose of hearing the heads of these establishments.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Order of the Assembly
At the request of the Assembly, the committees examine:
- bills
- the estimates of expenditure
- any other matter referred to them.

Order of initiative
On their own initiative, the committees examine:
- draft regulations and regulations
- the orientation, activities, and management of public agencies
- the financial commitments
- any other issue of public interest

All the reports on orders of initiative are available on the Internet site of the Assembly (in French only): http://www.assnat.qc.ca/archives-36leg1se/fra/Publications/index.html (under: Rapport, document de réflexion et colloque)

General consultation
Invitation made by a Committee to any persons or organizations interested in forwarding a brief setting forth their views on some matter being examined by the Committee. The invitation is published in the *Gazette officielle*, in selected newspapers and on the Internet. Public hearings are then held in order to discuss the said briefs.

Special consultation
Special invitation transmitted by a Committee to a limited number of persons or organizations who have expertise or experience specific to a field it is investigating. Public hearings enable exchanges between these witnesses and the members of the Committee.

The professional tools

This volume consists of fourteen chapters, each dealing with various aspects of the workings of the National Assembly: the basis of parliamentary procedure; parliamentary privilege; the Chair; the parliamentary groups and independent Members; the legislature, sessions and sittings; the conduct of a sitting; order and decorum; the decision-making process; the legislative process; the budgetary process; the rules of parliamentary debates and the organization of time allocation; unanimous consent and the motion to suspend certain rules of procedure; the committee of the whole; the standing committees.

In order to fully exercise their parliamentary duties, the Members of the National Assembly can count on various tools which are at their daily disposal. Here are a few such examples...

Parliamentary procedure in Québec

The work of the Members of the National Assembly is not governed haphazardly. This role is generally exercised according to precise rules of procedure that are predetermined by the Members as a whole. The first publication concerning all of the aspects surrounding the workings of the National Assembly was released in June 2000 and is entitled *La procédure parlementaire au Québec* (Parliamentary procedure in Québec). The purpose of parliamentary procedure is to safeguard the rights of each Member within the framework of the parliamentary proceedings. Despite the fact that the rules governing the conduct of the Assembly are inspired by those which generally govern British-style parliamentary assemblies, parliamentary procedure in Québec has its very own characteristics. These rules, developed through the years by the various Members who have composed the Assembly, are not all written down, however. Several of them stem from the precedents, past practice and traditions of the Assembly. One thing is certain, regardless of their source, it is of utmost importance that these rules be known and that they not be forgotten over time. Without a doubt this volume, *La procédure parlementaire du Québec,* will constitute an essential source of information for those who are interested in the conduct of the National Assembly.

The Library of the Assembly

The Library of the National Assembly, which is specialized in parliamentary affairs, is capable of meeting the information and documentation needs of Québec's elected representatives, of the employees of the Assembly, of journalists from the Press Gallery and of researchers. The total number of library holdings is estimated at over **900,000** documents. The catalogue alone, which increased its number of entries by **11,000** in 2000-2001, contains over 200,000 titles. The notices therein describe printed materials and microforms but also audio recordings, videocassettes and even electronic documents, some of which may be accessed directly on the screen.

Documentary research service

In order to ensure the proper conduct of their proceedings in committee and of their meetings with foreign counterparts, as well as to meet their various other information needs, the Members can count on a team of professionals to prepare information in view of these requirements, such as syntheses of lengthy documents, summaries of briefs received by committees, notes for speeches, studies on various subjects or arguments for or against a given topic. The professional resources of the documentary research service, who are also responsible for the updating of data banks and of essential reference tools on various aspects of politics (biographical and iconographical data, press clippings, election results, terminological and bibliographical references, calendar of events) were able, this year, to answer **439** requests of varying complexity.

Reader service

The reader service, also known as the "reference" service, answered **12,215** requests for information and documentation in 2000-2001. For their part, Members and employees borrowed **4130** documents.

"Budding parliamentarians" also benefit from the services of the librarians, who participate in the Assembly's educational programme by preparing documentation on the chosen themes and by assisting these "Members" with their information needs.

Mail and messenger services

The mail and messenger services, through the discreet work accomplished by the messengers, whether they cater to the political or administrative sector, greatly support the parliamentary proceedings. The following numbers, for the 2000-2001 fiscal year, is an indication of the significance of the task:

Mail delivered	**233,287**
Distribution of messages	**162,443**
• buildings of the Assembly:	137,095
• other buildings on Parliament Hill:	17,455
• outside the premises:	7893

The National Assembly also ensures the distribution of documents to the journalists of the Press Gallery. In 2000-2001, **555,757** written documents were thus transmitted thereto.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Standing Orders
Codification of the rules of procedure that the Assembly adopted in order to govern its proceedings and those of the standing committees. The Standing Orders establish the terms and conditions of the legislative process and of the budgetary process, the conduct of sittings, the rules for debates and time allocated for speeches; also, the various parliamentary control measures are listed. The Standing Orders of the National Assembly are available on the Internet site at the following address: http://www.assnat.qc.ca/eng/assemblee/ranindex.html

Recueil de décisions concernant la procédure parlementaire
(Collection of decisions on parliamentary procedure)
Limited publication composed of two volumes, one devoted to decisions rendered in the Assembly and the other to decisions rendered in the committees. It consists of a selection of the main decisions that hold an immediate or future interest with regard to the interpretation of the rules of procedure.

Order Paper and Notices
Parliamentary publication listing all of the business that the Assembly may give consideration to and containing various information; in consulting the *Order Paper*, readers will find, among other things, the stages at which bills are currently standing. This publication is available in its paper form as well as on the Internet at 8.00 o'clock a.m. on the very morning of a sitting.

Votes and Proceedings
Parliamentary publication which includes all orders and resolutions adopted by the Assembly, all motions moved and discussed, as well as all bills given consideration during a given sitting. The *Votes and Proceedings* also contains a summary of all the decisions rendered by the Chair. This publication is available on Internet within the hour following the end of the sitting, while the paper version is distributed the following morning.

Journal des débats (Hansard)
Parliamentary publication which contains the complete speeches given in the Assembly and in standing committees. An unrevised version of the *Journal* devoted to the proceedings of the Assembly is available on paper and on Internet some thirty minutes after the end of a given address.

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE CITIZENS

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND

THE CITIZENS

Visiting the Assembly

The Parliament Building is one of the privileged witnesses to the history of Québec; the Members who came before and a number of their contemporaries have left their indelible mark, while those of today continue to perpetuate, on a daily basis, the traditions of parliamentary government of British origin and, at the same time, to establish the milestones for Québec's society in the future. For the **146,736** persons who came to visit the Parliament in 2000-2001, the principle attraction to the premises was also one of the following elements:

To attend a sitting

The parliamentary proceedings, whether in committee or in the Assembly, are accessible to the public. There are some 140 seats available in the gallery of the National Assembly Room and there are seats reserved for the public in each of the standing committee rooms. In 2000-2001, the parliamentary proceedings attracted:

In the Assembly	8749 persons

In committees	7006 persons

Upon entering the building, each person must undergo a brief security verification, which is required procedure in order to ensure the safety of all. Briefcases and handbags are searched and passed through a metal detector, and, upon presentation of an identity paper, an identification tag is given to each person.

To visit the building

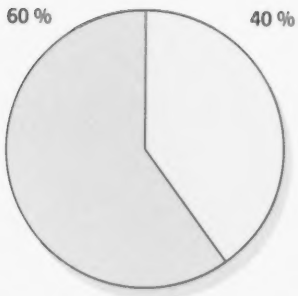
The ideal way to find out more about the Members and organization of the National Assembly as well as the history and architecture of the Parliament Building is through a guided tour, which visitors can enjoy free of charge all year round. Even though the majority of visitors come from Québec, it is always stimulating to note the interest that visitors from outside the province have for the Parliament Building.

Guided tours		Visitors (by place of origin)	
In French	54,161	Québec	62 %
In English	20,802	Other provinces	8 %
In Spanish	639	United States	12 %
In Italian	129	Other countries	18 %
Total	**75,731**		

Since more than a third of the visitors are students, it seemed appropriate to provide them with a specific programme including not only the interior of the Parliament Building but also the Premiers' Promenade and the Observatory of the Capital. For the past few years, in collaboration with the Commission de la capitale nationale (national capital commission), the following programmes have been offered:

Programme features / themes	Level	2000-2001
Québec, history of the capital interactive visit, simulation of a vote	Elementary	9270 participants
Québec, Gibraltar of America right to vote, representation	Sec.1-2-3	1489 participants
Québec, political capital parliamentary institutions, democracy	Sec.4-5	1544 participants

On a few occastions during the year, on "open-house days", visitors may discover the Parliament Building at their own pace, with the help of a folder published in three languages (French, English and Spanish) and guides who are available all along the tour. In total, 4568 visitors answered the invitation on 24, 25 and 26 June as well as on 2, 3 and 4 September 2000.



- Private sector activities 40 %
- Ceremonies and events of the Assembly and of the Government 60 %

To take part in official ceremonies and special events

Over 70 activities and ceremonies took place at the National Assembly in the course of 2000-2001. Among these are the following:

- The awarding of the first Robert-Bourassa Fund Bursary to support cancer research
- Prix Renaud-Cyr ceremony, of the Institut de tourisme et d'hôtellerie du Québec (tourism and hotel industry awards ceremony)
- Prix de la Justice awards ceremony
- the commemoration of Holocaust Day
- the welcoming ceremony for the Québec gold-medalists at the 6th Canadian Olympiad in professional and technical training
- the ceremony honouring the Québec medalists and athletes at the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Sidney
- Fleurir le Québec awards ceremony (MAPAQ)

To discover Québec's regional cuisine

Again this year, the *Le Parlementaire* restaurant received more than fifty producer artisans, hailing from 12 regions of Québec, within the context of its regional cuisine promotion. Working with the restaurant chef and collaborators in the preparation of menus, these producer artisans thus enabled the clientele to enjoy a variety of quality Québec products. Week after week, regional specialties and wines as well as home-made beverages were on the menu, thanks to the partnership established between the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation (department of agriculture, fisheries and food) and the *Le Parlementaire* restaurant.

Daniel Lessard

Appealing in both the grandness of its physical environment and the regional cuisine that it promotes with such flair, the restaurant is also the ideal place for the holding of official receptions hosted by the President and by the Government.

The *Le Parlementaire* restaurant is open to all for breakfast and lunch and, during the intensive sessional periods, for dinner. **35,226 meals** were served during the year.

The *Le Mini-Débat* cafeteria mainly serves breakfasts and lunches; in 2000-2001, it was open during the evening only when the House was sitting during extended hours of meeting and was closed during the summer. **34,165** meals were served during the year.

And, as a bonus, to discover...

The Boutique gift shop

To take home a tangible souvenir of the visit, whether it be a publication, an article of clothing, a game, decorative or office materials, a stop by the National Assembly gift shop is in order. Since December 2000, there is a new product available at the Boutique: the *Cuvée Le Parlementaire* wine, offered in red and white, in a bottle bearing the characteristic label of the National Assembly.

Exhibitions

During the year, by organizing thematic exhibitions for its visitors, the National Assembly places emphasis on the different aspects that marked the evolution of Québec society.

- **25th anniversary of the Québec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms**

This year, the National Assembly formed a partnership with the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse to mark the 25th anniversary of the Québec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms by organizing an exhibition whose objective, among others, was to enable visitors to have a better understanding of the role of the Members who unanimously adopted it on 27 June 1975. The public was able to discover an illustrated history of the Québec Charter, the scope of the rights and freedoms that it protects, and the action instrument that it constitutes in order to help improve social life. *On display at the Parliament Building.*

- **Exhibition within the framework of the Centraide campaign**

For the annual Centraide campaign, the National Assembly joined forces with a community organization of Québec City, the *Pignon bleu* house, in order to promote Centraide throughout Québec. An art exhibition by young people who frequent this house as well as a video document on the mission of the Pignon bleu were presented, in autumn 2000, at the Parliament Building.

- **Works of art by visual artists from the electoral division of Borduas**

Since 11 May 2000, on the initiative of the President of the National Assembly, the Parliament Building has opened its doors to artists and sculptors from the Vallée-du-Richelieu, thus paying tribute not only to the artists themselves but also to the cultural element of a territory that has inspired and continues to fill the imagination of a great number of artists. The exhibition, which is representative of the visual arts of the region, presents current works and others which are more traditional. Among the works of art on display are the following: *Chasse aux canards* (Duck Hunt), *Un matin brumeux* (A Foggy Morning), by Ozias Leduc, *Blocus aérien* (Air Blockade), by Paul-Émile Borduas, and *Profil* (Profile), by Jordi Bonet. *On display in the President's Formal Room and in the offices of the President*

Daniel Lessard

Centraide campaign

The Assembly in your home

The broadcasting of debates

The broadcasting of parliamentary debates is of utmost importance in representative democracy. From 16 to 19 August 2000, the National Assembly was host to the 27th annual conference of the Canadian Hansard Association, jointly held with the meeting of the Canadian Association of Parliamentary Debates Broadcasters. The delegates came from all of the Canadian Parliaments, as well as from England, Scotland and Ireland, and worked in all sectors of debates broadcasting. Several workshops enabled them to discuss parliamentary strategy in multimedia, the future of digital technology, the experience acquired in voice recognition. Specialists from the broadcasting branch of the National Assembly gave two presentations: the first on the systems and networks for televisual archiving, and the second on Internet video transmission.

The television audience has 24-hour access to the proceedings of the Assembly and to numerous standing committee sittings, to press conferences and special events which take place within the confines of the Parliament Building, and to continuous and diversified information on the Members of the National Assembly and on upcoming events.

Broadcast time in 2000-2001	
Broadcasting of events*	1291 hours
Computerized bulletin boards	7469 hours
Total broadcast time of the Assembly channel	**8760** hours

*** Broadcasting of events in 2000-2001: distribution of hours**			
	live coverage	pre-recorded	rerun
National Assembly	490:04	65:51	
Standing committees	265:20	301:14	
Press conferences	66:39	40:37	5:08
Special events	23:23	17:28	15:50
Total	**845:26**	**359:19**	**86:49**

Visiting the regions

The Québec Government's *Salons Info-services* (information services exhibitions), while helping to bring the population and Members closer together, constitute for the National Assembly a privileged opportunity to go out and meet the citizens in the regions and to inform them on the services offered by the institution. An interactive game based on the public's general knowledge (*At what age can a person vote?, What is Québec's motto?, etc.*) was developed specifically for these occasions and is still very popular. As equally popular is the virtual tour of the Parliament Building on the Assembly's Internet site, which can be accessed directly on the site.

BAIE-COMEAU

14 - 16 April 2000
at the Centre Henry-Leonard

8830 persons

DRUMMONDVILLE

20 - 22 October 2000
at the Pavillon Thématique

5000 persons

Library loans

To meet the needs of a portion of its clientele, the Library of the National Assembly loaned **4063** documents in 2000-2001. These documents were loaned within the State libraries network (83 %) and to school, municipality and business libraries (17 %).

Parliamentary documents

For citizens who so desire, it is possible to obtain the paper version — the electronic version is available on the Internet site — of various parliamentary documents, including the *Journal des débats* (Hansard), the *Order Paper and Notices* and the *Votes and Proceedings of the Assembly,* to which citizens may subscribe. It is also possible to purchase specific issues of these publications, certain briefs or the certified true copies of Acts. In 2000-2001, the persons responsible for their distribution sold **77,127** parliamentary documents.

The institutional publications

The National Assembly provides the Members, the media, the school network, visitors at the Assembly, ministries, organizations and citizens who make such requests with a series of publications. In the course of the 2000-2001 fiscal year, **79,560** copies of these publications were distributed. The following is an overview of the documents, published in French and in English, that have been referred to:

- What is the National Assembly?
- Questions and answers on the National Assembly
- Welcome to the Parliament Building
- Getting to know the National Assembly
- The educational mission of the National Assembly

www.assnat.qc.ca

The Assembly on Internet

Since it views this as an excellent way to take part in the democratization of information, the National Assembly gives the citizens the opportunity to obtain all information relating to parliamentary proceedings on its Internet site.

The statistical unit used in order to determine the number of visits on the site is the "user session". A session represents the activities as a whole (all access operations) performed consecutively by a user on the site for an uninterrupted period of time (30 minutes in our case).

712,891 visits

made to the Assembly site in 2000-2001, which represents an increase of 44 % in comparison with the previous year.

5.4 million

pages were accessed.

In addition to being an essential information tool for the population in general, the site is also indispensable to a large number of Members, their personnel and the employees of the Assembly. Indeed, among the 900 individuals who may potentially access the site from their offices, on Parliament Hill or in the ridings, **800** of them consulted the site on an average of **26** times per month in 2000-2001.

In the hour following its introduction in the Assembly, a bill is available on the Internet site of the Assembly.

The *Journal des débats* (Hansard)

To ensure quick access to the verbatim transcript of the parliamentary proceedings, for example, to speeches delivered in the Assembly, or to statements made during a press conference, Internetters may refer to the *Journal des débats* on the Internet site of the Assembly. The following is a brief look at the transcription of events in 2000-2001 and the quantity that this represents on paper:

	number (sittings)	number of pages
National Assembly	71	4297
Standing committees	357	11,880 (April to December 2000)
Press conferences	198	917
Special events	—	756
Total	**626**	

2028 hours of parliamentary proceedings and special events were audio taped, the proceedings of the standing committees taking up 66 % of this total.

The electronic broadcasting of past debates

Since the end of August 2000, the heading "Parliamentary Proceedings" on the Internet site of the Assembly contains the debates of the Legislative Assembly of the 2nd and 3rd sessions of the 13th Legislature (1913 to 1915). Internetters will find the outstanding events and major themes of each of these sessions, a newspaper analysis and the sources used to reconstitute the debates of that era, a bibliography and an historical introduction. The electronic broadcasting of these two sessions completes the first phase of a project that will eventually enable the in extenso broadcast of the reconstitution of past debates.

Index of the *Journal des débats (Hansard)*

In 2000-2001, the scope of the virtual index that was created in the course of the previous year was widened and extended to the reconstituted sessions and made available on the Internet site. This index, which enables quick access to excerpts from the *Journal des débats*, now covers the following parliamentary sessions:

Legislature	Session	Year(s)
13th	2nd	1913-1914
13th	3rd	1915
35th	2nd	1996-1998
36th	1st	1999-2001
36th	2nd	2001- ...

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND

ITS EDUCATIONAL MISSION

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND

ITS EDUCATIONAL MISSION

The parliamentary simulations

In order to help people of all ages become familiar with the parliamentary system of Québec, the National Assembly organizes and conducts parliamentary simulations and a tournament on democracy. In 2000-2001, close to **5000** young people demonstrated their interest in the practice of democracy, as indicated in the following table of activities:

Activities		Clientele	Participation in class	Participation at the Assembly	Bills/ Themes
4th Legislature	*Pupils' Parliament*	6th grade	3000	100	1
9th Legislature	*Student Forum*	college	800	140	2
51th Legislature	*Youth Parliament*	university	300	90	3
15th Legislature	*Student Parliament*	coll. + univ.	120	120	4
8th edition	*Young Democrats' Tournament*	sec. 4-5 + coll.	750	420	5
		Total:	**4970**	**870**	

The bills considered and passed by these young apprentice parliamentarians gives some insight into their issues of concern:

1- The Pupils' Parliament
- An Act obliging schools to organize a trip for students nearing the end of Grade 5 in order for them to meet other students with whom they have cultural differences
- An Act aiming to oblige elementary schools and high schools to integrate a community help project in their study curriculum

2- The Student Forum
- An Act respecting the recovery of recyclable materials
- An Act respecting child care benefits to disabled children or children struggling with a severe disease
- An Act respecting publicity and sponsorship in high schools and colleges

3- The Youth Parliament
- An Act to govern private investment in the health care sector
- An Act respecting parental leave and other provisions fostering the promotion of families
- An Act respecting the self-government of Native peoples

4- The Student Parliament
- An Act establishing the Agence de développement du réseau routier québécois
- An Act establishing the Conseil des régions de la province de Québec
- An Act aiming to ensure the ancestral rights under the Native treaties
- An Act respecting the liquidation of the Société générale de financement
- An Act to amend the Police Act
- An Act to amend the Cinema Act
- An Act prohibiting discrimination based on genetic profiling

To obtain more information on the various sectors of the educational mission of the Assembly, please visit our Internet site. The Jean-Charles-Bonenfant Foundation, the *Cyberjournal*, and the *Education Information Forum* on education and democracy are also on the site (several sections are available in English).
http://www.assnat.qc.ca/fra/fondationbonenfant/index.html

Daniel Lessard

5- The Young Democrats' Tournament: a few of the themes discussed...

- Origins and evolution of democracy
- Political and constitutional history of Québec
- Elections and electoral mechanisms in Québec since 1792
- Functions and political figures in Québec
- Great parliamentary debates
- Québec's parliamentary system
- Arts and politics

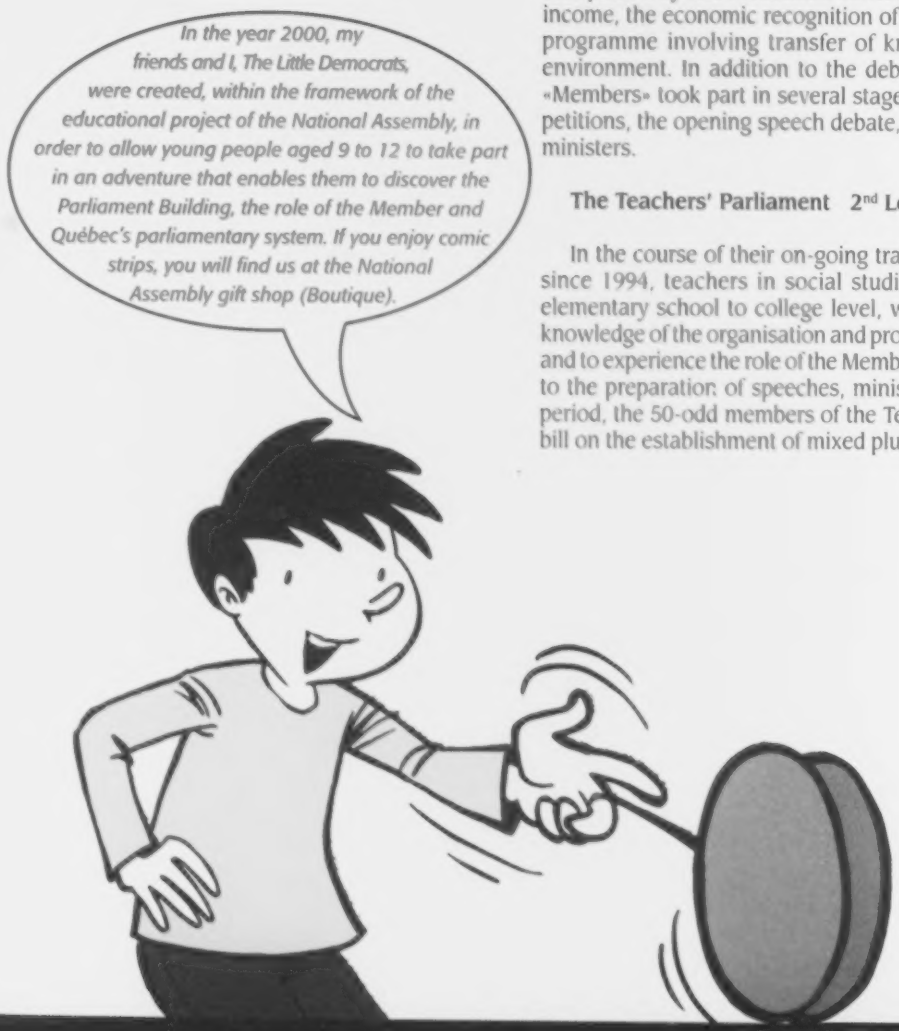
Young people are not alone to be interested in parliamentary simulations, as the following events indicate...

The Seniors' Parliament 1st Legislature - 11 to 13 September 2000

The National Assembly collaborated with the Association québécoise de défense des droits des retraités et des préretraités (Québec association to defend the rights of persons in retirement and pre-retirement) and the Amicale des anciens parlementaires (former Members' association) to allow a group of seniors, 110 retired men and women, to enhance their knowledge of the institutions in order to be better prepared to meet with decision-makers, and to familiarize themselves with the stages of the legislative process. The three bills passed by this Parliament concerned the implementation of a citizenship income, the economic recognition of the citizen's social commitment, and a programme involving transfer of knowledge and know-how in the work environment. In addition to the debates on the passage of these bills, the «Members» took part in several stages of proceedings, such as the tabling of petitions, the opening speech debate, oral question period and statements by ministers.

The Teachers' Parliament 2nd Legislature - 14 October 2000

In the course of their on-going training activities and for the second time since 1994, teachers in social studies, political science and history, from elementary school to college level, were given the chance to increase their knowledge of the organisation and procedures of the parliamentary institutions and to experience the role of the Member as legislator and controller. In addition to the preparation of speeches, ministerial statements and an oral question period, the 50-odd members of the Teachers' Parliament were able to pass a bill on the establishment of mixed plurality in Québec's electoral system.


In the year 2000, my friends and I, The Little Democrats, were created, within the framework of the educational project of the National Assembly, in order to allow young people aged 9 to 12 to take part in an adventure that enables them to discover the Parliament Building, the role of the Member and Québec's parliamentary system. If you enjoy comic strips, you will find us at the National Assembly gift shop (Boutique).

Year after year, the National Assembly hires young people who wish to experience the labour market, for a few days or weeks, and this, in a sector related to their current studies or to the studies they have just completed. In 2000-2001, the Assembly welcomed:

4 trainees in hotel and catering techniques
4 trainees in culinary techniques
- *restaurants*

3 trainees in electrical engineering
2 trainees in compugraphic and multimedia production
- *broadcasting of debates*

1 trainee in secretarial work and accounting
- *protocol and visitors' services*

several trainees in industrial security
- *security*

2 trainees in documentation techniques
- *documentary studies*

1 trainee in computer/networking techniques
- *computers: local network*

1 trainee in tourism techniques
- *reception and information service*

Within the framework of the interprovincial summer employment exchange programme for students, the National Assembly welcomed, from May to August 2000:

1 trainee from New Brunswick
- *reception and information service*

The internships of the National Assembly

History internships

The year 2000-2001 will once again have enabled the Library to welcome four graduates from various Québec universities, within the framework of a paid 18-month internship allowing them to broaden their knowledge of the history of Québec. The students work on reconstructing the debates of the sessions prior to the establishment of the *Journal des débats* (Hansard) in 1964, first of all by learning about the historical situation and then by going through the newspapers of that time period and drafting texts based on the official documents, major newspapers and other inventoried sources. At the end of their internship, they will have the satisfaction of knowing that their contribution to this reconstruction work will benefit a large number of people, since the sessions they helped reconstruct will eventually be indexed and made available on the Internet site of the Assembly and elsewhere.

The Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant

Whether it is through its current annual fellowship programme or through its teaching programme and the aforementioned simulations, the Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant more than adequately meets the objects stipulated in the statute that established the Foundation in 1978 and which were extended when amendments were adopted in December 2000:

- to increase, improve and propagate knowledge of the political and parliamentary institutions of Québec;
- to promote study and research in political and parliamentary institutions.

In 2000-2001, the latter object will once again have enabled four graduates of Québec universities to take part in a paid 10-month internship, an internship which allows them to become acquainted with the institution and to participate, thanks to their each being matched with a Member, in the parliamentary work of the Member as legislator, controller and representative of the population.

Jean-Charles Bonenfant, 1912-1977
Lawyer and journalist
Director of the Library of the National Assembly from 1951 to 1969

Collection Assemblée nationale

The purpose of the Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant is found in the preamble of the statute:

- The practice of a healthy democracy demands the fullest possible acquaintance with the workings of political institutions;
- For the greater benefit of the whole community, it is necessary to interest the greatest possible number of individuals in the pursuit of a more thorough theoretical and practical knowledge of political institutions and parliamentary law and practice;
- It is desirable to complement the studies and research being carried out in the universities in the field of Québec parliamentary institutions;
- It is expedient to establish a foundation for the pursuit of these educational objectives;
- It is appropriate to honour and perpetuate the memory of the late Jean-Charles Bonenfant for his eminent contribution to studies, research, teaching and popularization in the field of Québec political institutions, law and parliamentary procedure.

...

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND

PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND

PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

The international network of the Assembly

At the forefront of the political scene in Québec, the Member also plays a main role on the international scene. The National Assembly, as an active member in the international organizations uniting Parliaments from the five continents and through the bilateral relations that it has, enables the Member to play this role thanks to the network of interparliamentary and international relations that it has developed for over half a century and which has known, in the course of the last decade, a significant increase linked to the evolution of the international system at the close of the century. Indeed, it is now quite common, on the international scene, to hear about the existence of a genuine parliamentary diplomacy.

Four major objectives govern international relations at the National Assembly:

1. The upholding and reinforcement of the efficiency of the parliamentary institution and of the elected representatives in their duties with regard to legislation, control, consideration of issues of public interest and representation;

2. The active participation of the National Assembly in building a world community based on democracy, peace, justice and prosperity;

3. The improvement of the international positioning of the Assembly, which contributes to the optimal outreach of Québec society;

4. The institutional outreach of the Assembly within the interparliamentary networks.

Second General Assembly of the Parliamentary Conference of the Americas (COPA)

Along with 200 parliamentarians from 20 countries of the Americas, the Members of the National Assembly took part in the Second General Assembly of the COPA that was held in Puerto Rico, from 19 to 23 July 2000. This general assembly gave the parliamentarians the opportunity to discuss the issues surrounding the establishment of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and the role of parliamentarians in the hemispheric integration process, and then to adopt the guiding principles of the Conference, thus making this meeting the first permanent forum of its kind.

Electoral observation mission of the COPA

A delegation from the National Assembly, along with Members from Argentina, El Salvador, Puerto Rico and Guatemala, took part in an observation mission of the Mexican presidential and legislative elections on 2 July 2000. This mission, which was organized by the COPA, took place in Mexico at the invitation of the Federal Electoral Institute of Mexico, an independent public institution that is responsible for the organization of elections. The delegation of the COPA attended each stage of the conduct of the election and met with several Mexican parliamentarians as well as with numerous leading figures of the three main political parties of Mexico.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

APF
Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (Parliamentary assembly of French-speaking peoples); founded in 1967, composed of 64 Parliaments of unitary, federal and federated States from 49 countries. (National Assembly: full member since 1974)

CPA
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association; founded in 1911, composed of 164 Parliaments of unitary, federal and federated States from 54 countries. (National Assembly: full member since 1933)

CSG
Council of State Governments of the United States; created in 1933, composed of representatives of the legislative, executive and judicial powers from the 50 United States and territories. (National Assembly: international associated member since 1995)

COPA
Conférence parlementaire des Amériques (Parliamentary Conference of the Americas); created in 1997 on the initiative of the National Assembly of Québec, composed of the parliamentary assemblies of the unitary, federal and federated States, the regional parliaments and the interparliamentary organizations of the Americas. The National Assembly is host to the **Secrétariat international de la Conférence** (international Conference secretariat), which operates in the four languages of the Americas: French, English, Spanish, Portuguese.

NCSL
National Conference of State Legislatures; founded in 1975, composed of the legislative assemblies from the 50 United States and territories. (National Assembly: associated member since **April 2000**).

Mali - Private Collection

Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas

The annual meeting of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, chaired by a woman Member of the National Assembly, was held prior to the general assembly of the COPA in Puerto Rico, last July, and its theme was «The improvement of the economic rights of women in the Americas». At this meeting, the members adopted the Network Statutes and defined the line of action thereof.

Notice on the cultures dialogue

During the 26th ordinary session of the APF, held in Cameroon at the beginning of July 2000, a Member of the National Assembly was chosen as general reporter of a *Notice on the theme of the cultures dialogue*, which will be presented, in Beirut, during the fall of 2001, at the 9th summit of the heads of State and Government of countries having French as a common language. The Notice will be presented prior to this summit at the French-speaking Culture Ministers' conference that will be held in Benin, in June 2001. The main challenge in relation to this matter consists in identifying the methods that would enable everyone to preserve and promote their own culture while fostering the most equitable and extensive cultural exchanges possible.

Commission interparlementaire franco-québécoise (France-Québec Interparliamentary Committee)

Parliamentarians from France and Québec exchanged on the policy and management of the water resource as well as on the territorial administrative management during the 14th France-Québec interparliamentary committee held in Québec City, from 14 to 20 May 2000. After having heard experts and visited, among other places, the hydro-electric installations of the La Grande complex, the members of the Commission interparlementaire franco-québécoise adopted a resolution defining the preoccupations of the members with regard to the importance of responsible management of the water resource as well as of local autonomy.

Participation of Québec Members in the missions

59 Members took part in **51** missions for a total of **126** participations in 2000-2001.
Total cost* : **$734,845.99**
(* including transportation, lodging, meals and registration fees)

Bavaria

The bilateral agreement signed with the Parliament of the State of Bavaria (Germany) in 1999 will have enabled the Members of the National Assembly to put forward their expertise and to take advantage of the experiences of the Bavarian parliamentarians. Thus, several documents were exchanged between parliamentarians and meetings were held, particularly on the occasion of the passage at the Parliament Building, in October 2000, of members of two Bavarian parliamentary committees, who exchanged with the Québec Members on municipal management, the organization and funding of universities as well as on cultural diversity, among other matters.

The network grows...

Last 15 November, the Presidents of the State Council of the Tatarstan Republic of Russia and of the National Assembly of Québec signed, here in Québec City, a discussion protocol aiming to enable the exchange of information and experiences between these two Parliaments.

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Twinning of diplomats and Québec Members

On 19 March 2001, in the course of the Semaine internationale de la Francophonie (French-speaking peoples week), the National Assembly took once again the opportunity to demonstrate its commitment to the French international community by organizing twinnings between French State diplomats and Québec Members. Eight Members were thus given the chance to tour and promote their electoral riding, for an entire day, and to heighten the awareness of both the participants and the citizens with regard to the various aspects of the Francophonie. In addition, the twinnings helped foster the development of economic and cultural exchanges between the countries represented and Québec.

Twinnings in 2001	
Electoral division	**Country represented**
Beauce-Nord	Belgium
Champlain	Madagascar
Chauveau	Lebanon
Jeanne-Mance	Niger
LaFontaine	Tunisia
La Pinière	Senegal
Montmorency	Switzerland
Portneuf	France

1st Meeting of the Interparliamentary Committee UNALE/ National Assembly of Québec

In March 2001, in Québec City, the first meeting between the Interparliamentary Committee National Union of State Legislatures of Brazil (UNALE) and the National Assembly of Québec was held. The Members of the Committee discussed issues, among others, concerning the environment (including the responsible use and management of water in a perspective of sustainable development) and health and social services, more particularly with regard to the funding and the reorganization of these services.

The official delegations

The international commitments of the National Assembly bring a great number of foreign dignitaries to Québec. In 2000-2001, the National Assembly thus received, within the framework of official visits, the following parliamentarians:

Why are there various foreign flags floating atop the towers of the Parliament Building on certain days? This is to indicate the presence, in the capital and at the Assembly, of parliamentarians, presidents of Assemblies, heads of State or Government, ministers and diplomats. In 2000-2001, **59** flags were hoisted beside the Québec flag, which is always atop the central tower. Fact: When the Québec flag is at half-mast, an event that has occurred three times during the past year, no other flag may be hoisted, even if dignitaries are within our walls.

Keshari Nath Tripathi President Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh (India)	**Farid K. Moukametshin** President State Council of the Republic of Tatarstan (Russia)	**Jane Davidson** Vice-president National Assembly of Wales (United Kingdom)

... as well as several prominent figures:

Boutros Boutros-Ghali
Secretary General

Organisation internationale de la Francophonie

François Huwart	Secretary of State Foreign trade of the French Republic
Joseph Antoni Duran Lleida	Minister of Public Administration and Institutional Relations of the Government of Catalonia
Saïd Saâdi	Secretary of State responsible for Social Protection of the Family and Children of the Kingdom of Morocco
Arturo Villarino	First Vice-president Republic of Panama
Jorge Sobisch	Governor Province of Neuquén (Argentinian Republic)

In 2000-2001,

135 protocolar receptions enabled us to welcome **3549** persons
Total cost: **$247,835.00**

Overview

of the international delegations that visited the Assembly in 2000-2001...

- **13** official visits of ambassadors
- **6** official visits of consuls general
- **12** visits from foreign ministers
- **51** visits (public servants, journalists, students, etc.)

Moreover, the Parliament Building, as a symbol, is a privileged place where most of the State visits and international meetings of the Québec Government are held. Within this framework, the following are some of the visitors who came to the Parliament Building in 2000-2001:

Mr. Émile Tsizaraina	President of the Province of Tamatave (Republic of Madagascar)
Mr. Alphonse	Minister of the Environment of the Republic de Madagascar
Mr. Halidou Ouedraogo	President of the Union interafricaine des droits de l'Homme and of the Mouvement burkinabé des droits de l'Homme et des peuples
Mrs. Kim Phuc Phan Thi	President of the Kim Phuc Foundation and Unesco goodwill ambassador for a peace culture
Mr. Hugo Léal	Secretary of State for the Administration and the Restructuring of the State of Rio de Janeiro

The promotion of democracy

The National Assembly has long been contributing to the promotion of democracy and the consolidation of democracy and the State of Law, within both the multilateral forums and the bilateral context of interparliamentary cooperation. The interparliamentary cooperation missions allow for the organization of seminars or discussion workshops for the Members and the administrative staff of partner Assemblies.

National Assemblies of Burkina Faso and of Mali

An exploratory mission was undertaken, from 5 to 16 March 2000, at the National Assemblies of Burkina Faso and of Mali by three Members of the National Assembly. Subsequently, the following seminars were held:

- From 25 to 29 September 2000, a technical seminar for the personnel of the parliamentary committees of the National Assembly of Mali;
- From 9 to 14 November 2000, a discussion seminar for the parliamentarians of the National Assembly of Mali, chaired by two Members of the National Assembly of Québec;
- From 25 February to 3 March 2001, a technical seminar for the personnel of the parliamentary committees of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso.

The Library of the National Assembly continues to take an active part in providing technical support to emerging democratic institutions. In compliance with this cooperative project, some documentation, which was selected among the Library's supplementary collections, was sent to Burkina Faso and Djibouti.

The Library also took part in this technical support by providing an internship to a library technician from the Parliament of Djibouti.

National Assemblies of Niger and of Madagascar

An exploratory mission was undertaken, from 28 January to 13 February 2001, at the National Assemblies of Niger and of Madagascar by two Members of the National Assembly. This mission constituted the first stage of a strategy aiming to promote and provide expertise to the National Assembly with regard to the democratic consolidation between these two Assemblies.

Secretaries General of four National Assemblies of Africa

A discussion seminar on the administrative and parliamentary organization of our Assembly was held in Québec, from 11 to 21 March 2001, for the secretaries general of the National Assemblies of Benin, Burkina Faso, Madagascar and Mali. Among the various subjects dealt with were the quality of administrative services, the training of the National Assembly's employees, as well as the various services provided to Members.

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND

TECHNOLOGICAL SUPPORT

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND
TECHNOLOGICAL SUPPORT

Computerization of the Table

Within the framework of an institutional project consisting in the computerization of the proceedings of the Assembly, a pilot project, which was established in autumn 2000, introduced various elements to facilitate the work of the President and that of the clerks at the Table during the sittings of the Assembly. Hence, a new «multimedia» unit was set up in front of the President's Throne. This piece of furniture contains the speakers and dials that were previously at the foot of the Throne; furthermore, it enables the integration of two more discreet and efficient microphones. New elements: a portable computer, which allows the President to receive messages from the Table concerning parliamentary procedure, and a television monitor, on which the broadcast image can be viewed. As regards the Table, there are a total of three computers, one for each clerk, which are placed at each individual seat. In addition to the messages sent to the President, the clerks can prepare the Votes and Proceedings draft, access the parliamentary research data banks and contact the personnel of the branches that are closely related to parliamentary proceedings.

Table

Designates the Secretary General of the Assembly and those who assist him during a sitting. These persons take place at one end of a long table that is at the centre of the National Assembly Room; the Mace is placed at the other end.

Audio recording in the National Assembly Room

Since autumn 2000, audio recording of the proceedings in the National Assembly Room is carried out by a pioneering digital audio technology system. This new system clearly improves the quality of sound in the room, which proves to be very useful for the Members in their exchanges.

Sound digitization

The implementation of a new sound digitization system for the production of the *Journal des débats* (Hansard) is now complete. This new work tool, which is essential for transcribing parliamentary proceedings, has replaced the now-obsolete cassette recording system. Thus, the cassette era has passed and it is now via the computer network of the National Asssembly that the data, consisting in digitized segments of the sittings of the Assembly and of committees, press conferences and certain special events, is transmitted to the employees of the Journal who are responsible for the transcripts.

Sound on Internet

In autumn 2000, several teams of the Assembly worked together to examine the possibility of enabling Internetters to hear the proceedings of the Assembly and of the committees, in real time or delayed broadcasting. The tests that were performed during the proceedings of a parliamentary committee provided vital information on the capacity of the internal network as well as on the scope of the Assembly's Internet passband. The feasibility of such an endeavour having now been established, the project will be developed in the coming months.

Security Committee at the National Assembly

Since the protection of occupants and visitors is a constant preoccupation at the National Assembly, both within the confines of the Assembly and outside of the perimeter of the Parliament Building, a new committee was established, in January 2001. Among the members of this committee are the Director of Security, who holds the rank of captain with the Québec Provincial Police and who is the Sergeant-at-Arms of the National Assembly. The mandate of the Security Committee is to ensure a follow-up of the measures proposed by the Advisory Committee, which was created in 1996, and of the actions taken since then, to issue new recommendations with regard to development and schedule priorities, and to report to the President on the state of security at the National Assembly.

Management of telecommunications expenses

A new method of managing telecommunications expenses has been adopted by the Assembly during the year. To eliminate ever-rising administrative costs, to lighten the validation process and the payment of telecommunications costs in the electoral divisions and to ensure data security, the National Assembly has developed a process which, since its implementation, satisfies the needs of the target clientele: the Members and their personnel. The procedure, which is based on the Microsoft Office functional capability, which eliminates having to purchase and master new software, allows, among other things, to centralize billing, to send electronic statements to the individuals concerned and to reduce the number of staff members required in the process.

Customer assistance

At the Assembly, in 2000-2001, different teams handle the computer needs of the parliamentary and administrative clienteles by providing the following: office automation equipment and software, the implementation of a remotely operated servicing tool, applications or specific software packages for certain administrative units, a consulting service for material and computer software purchases, the security of workstations, particularly in the electoral divisions, the installation of a new virus detector, servers and interactive tutorials.

All employees who have access to computers, whether they work on Parliament Hill or in the electoral divisions, may ask for the help of the customer assistance service for a given problem and they can be certain that this problem will be taken care of expeditiously. The following table provides an overview of the requests received in 2000-2001.

Requests for assistance (calls received)	**9978**	
Immediate response (1st level intervention)	5368	54 %
Requests requiring a 2nd level intervention	4610	46 %

Computer training

By providing increased knowledge of the computer equipment at the disposal of the Members and the personnel, the National Assembly ensures that everyone can use the various types of software efficiently and that employees' daily tasks are simplified. On-going and adapted training remains a constant preoccupation within the institution; thus, in 2000-2001, individualized training courses were offered in answer to the requests for assistance made by Members.

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND ITS HERITAGE

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND

ITS HERITAGE

The documentary heritage

Management of the documentary heritage

As the documentary heritage of the National Assembly is ever-increasing, the records management programme established and managed by the Assembly has as its mission to manage the records retention and retirement cycles of the administrative documents of the institution. In 2000-2001, six departments or additional sectors were integrated into this programme and the common work tools (classification plan, index, records retention calendar, etc.) were updated.

The interventions in relation to the management of the administrative corpus in 2000-2001:	
131	new files opened in the various file stations
366	boxes of files transferred from the administrative units to the semi-active records storage
28	boxes of files transferred from the administrative units to the archives
5665	new records registred in the database
10,000	purged records withdrawn from the database

The Chauveau Collection

Undertaken in 1999, in anticipation of a future heritage filing facility, the regrouping of the volumes belonging to former Premier Chauveau (1867-1873) was completed during the 2000-2001 fiscal year. The task consisted essentially in using the existing inventories in order to retrace and classify among the collection of the Library's rare books the works and pamphlets that had belonged to Pierre-Joseph-Olivier Chauveau and which, through the years, had been dispersed, according to subject, in the general collection. It is now possible to electronically access, via the Library catalogue, the inventory of this collection containing 3009 titles, some of which are extremely rare. Among these are six incunabula (works printed before 1500) and several books from the presses of well-known printers from the past (Alde, Elzévier, Estienne, Jenson, Gryphe, Crispin).

Manuscripts on the Parliament Building and Library fire of 1883

Since the opening of the first session of the House of the Assembly in 1792, major fires have destroyed all or parts of the collections of the Library. Mr. Camille Gosselin, of Québec City, has recently donated to the Library a collection of manuscripts on the last fire, that of 19 April 1883. The entire Parliament Building was overtaken by flames, thus destroying a large part of the collection of the Library, which, at that time, contained over thirty thousand volumes, a mere four thousand of which were salvaged.

Six packages constitute the file: the report from the adjudicator on the assessment of the losses to the Library caused by the fire, initialed by Faucher de Saint-Maurice; two lists made by Pamphile Le May and establishing the value of the material destroyed and of the material that remained intact; an inventory of 20 cases of books received from C.A. Dansereau, circa 1885, who

BIBLIOTHÈQUE
1802·2002
ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE

The year 2002 will mark the 200th anniversary of the establishment of the Library of the National Assembly, and several activities are being planned in order to mark this historical moment. In September 2000, the members of the organizational committee of the Library bicentennial, under the responsibility of its former director, Mr. Gaston Bernier, adopted a commemorative stamp that will be reproduced on all documents and promotional material associated with this event.

had been responsible for making purchases in Europe to replace the books that were lost; finally, the lists and prices of the books purchased by the ministries at the time. There are also four appendices to the journals or votes and proceedings of the House of the Assembly. The packages had been found in 1976 at the library of the Franciscan Fathers, on Alverne Street in Québec. To this day, no one has been able to explain how they got there.

The manuscripts that were recovered will be useful to researchers who will be writing the history of the Library. They have recently indicated a special interest in this endeavour, as the Library is preparing the commemoration of its bicentennial.

The architectural heritage

Exterior lighting of the Parliament Building and surrounding buildings

The Parliament Building and the surrounding buildings can now be viewed in a different light. The exterior lighting of the parliamentary buildings which was completed by the Commission de la capitale nationale, in partnership with Hydro-Québec and the National Assembly, has, since 13 June 2000, given a new evening look to the premises where the heart of democracy is located in the national capital. For the designer, Louis Clair, the objective was not to merely light the exterior of the buildings, as would the light of the sun, but rather it was to bring out textures, accentuate articulations, emphasize details, to create a special lighting effect for a cornice, to play with shadows and light as is done with rests and tones in music.

Resembling an immense nocturnal painting, the lighting of the Parliament Building begins at dusk, everyday, and is carried out progressively, according to a well-established sequence that is programmed by computer. It begins with the lighting of a chosen selection of elements: the flag of Québec, atop the mast of the central tower, as well as the masts of the two other towers, the interior of the red and blue rooms, the street lamps; then the rooftops of the three buildings which, alone, required the installation of over 25 kilometres of optical fiber; the third stage consists in lighting the front of the building and bringing to life the 22 bronze statues; finally, the operation is completed, some thirty minutes later, by the illumination of the main tower, which is without a doubt the most spectacular element of the Parliament Building, thus emphasizing the majestic appearance of this group of buildings.

It should be noted that the installation of the electrical infrastructures and of the control systems, as well as that of 1000 lighting fixtures incurred expenses of $1.7 million, these costs having been paid by the partners in this project. As for the operation and maintenance costs, they are relatively low: $2.33 more per day than the previous lighting costs.

The lighting of the Parliament Building and of the surrounding buildings did capture the attention of the members of the Tourism and Convention bureau and of the Québec Urban Community, since, within the framework of the regional section of the **Grands Prix du tourisme québécois 2001** (Québec tourism awards 2001), a prize was awarded to the President of the National Assembly, who accepted it with congratulations to the personnel of the Assembly for its commitment in this project.

Lighting of the Guido Nincheri stained-glass window at the Library

A magnificent stained glass window, work of master stained-glass window maker Guido Nincheri, an Italian artist living in Montréal, is placed in the entry hall of the Library of the Assembly. During the year, reflectors were installed under the archway between Honoré-Mercier and Pamphile-Le May buildings, thus enhancing the colours and details of the work of art by Nincheri when evening comes. The stained-glass window was created in 1915, and was apparently the idea of Ernest Myrand, a librarian living at that time: a woman retrieving water at the foot of a waterfall, which was allegedly inspired by that of Val-Jalbert. A motto is inscribed in the medallion: *Je puise mais n'épuise*. Thus, similarly to this image of retrieving water, we retrieve information from the library but can never exhaust its resources.

Daniel Lessard

Restoration and standards maintenance work on buildings

Parliament Building

Ever mindful of the need to preserve the integrity of its buildings, the National Assembly, in the summer of 2000, undertook the first stage of a programme to restore the masonry of the exterior walls of the Parliament Building. Innovative techniques, which are very popular in Europe for the plating and remodeling of existing stonework, were used for this work, which took place from September to December 2000, on a section of the north-west side. Included in the work was the cleaning by use of brushes and high-pressure water jets, rejointing, plating and replacement of stonework. This was the second stage of the work to be accomplished on the exterior walls.

Pamphile-Le May Building

The renovation and standards maintenance work done on Pamphile-Le May Building, which houses, among others, the Library of the Assembly and a press conference room, continued in 2000-2001. The work enabled the reconditioning of the Library's ground floor lighting system and the construction of an additional emergency staircase.

The urban heritage

For the past few years, in order to promote the historical site of the National Assembly, a complete reorganization of the property has been undertaken in collaboration with the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec. It is within the context of this project that, during the summer of 2000, the first phase of the reconstruction of the north walkway was completed. The plan consisted in constructing the portion of walkway between Honoré-Mercier Avenue and the Carriage Entrance of the Parliament Building.

June 2000

Unveiling of a new bronze statue on the grounds of the Parliament, that of **Jean Lesage**, Premier of Québec from 1960 to 1966. This art work was accomplished by Montréal sculptor Annick Bourgeau.

October 2000

Unveiling of a bronze statue in honour of **Adélard Godbout**, Premier of Québec in 1936 and from 1939 to 1944. This monument is the work of Montréal sculptor Michel Binette.

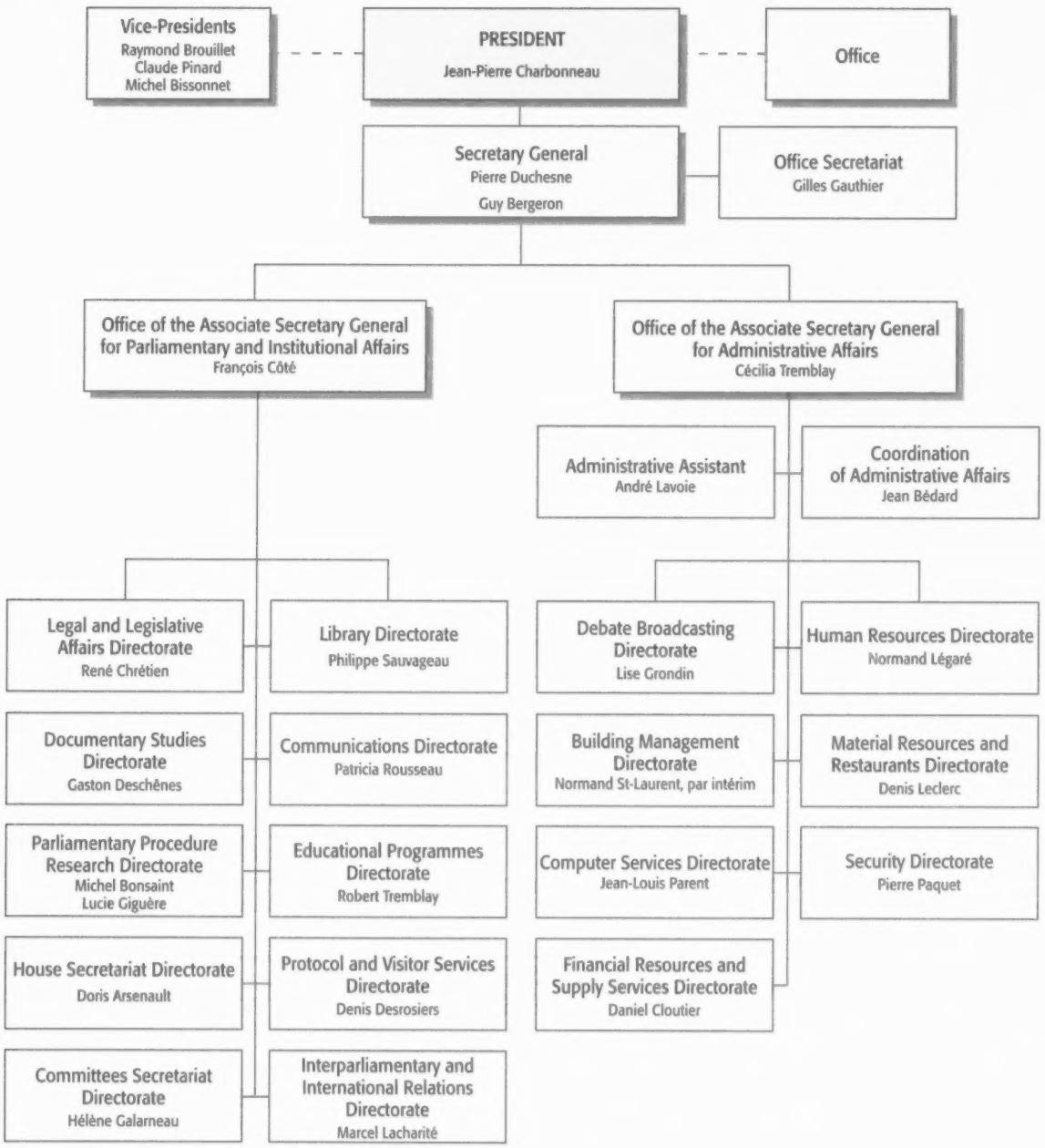
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND ITS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND

ITS ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

The administrative structure



Daniel Lessard

This new organizational structure was introduced to the employees of the Assembly during a special presentation made by the President, on 21 December 2000, in the Legislative Council Room.

On 14 December 2000, the Office of the National Assembly adopted a new administrative organization plan prepared by the President and the Secretary General. This new plan is the National Assembly's answer to the major modernization process undertaken by the Government of Québec through the adoption, in June 2000, of a modified *Public Administration Act*. The following are among the principal orientations declared by the President to the branch directors and then to the personnel of the Assembly:

- Have the clientele increasingly at the centre of priorities, namely the Members and the institution, as well as their specific needs;
- Provide better supervision of the administrative services by the elaboration of a genuine strategic action plan and very stringent planning, thus establishing clear and coherent action targets, objectives that are precise, specific and measurable, and an order of priorities that to date is realistic and stimulating;
- Establish performance measurement indicators and performance standards and give ourselves new instruments for accurate follow-up and accountability in order to more easily follow actions in progress, to have a better overall view of the operations and to increase accountability of administrators as well as employees as a whole;
- Mobilize all human resources, at all levels, by valuing team work, realization of individuals in a pleasant work environment;
- Introduce communications, management and flow of information structures and establish feedback mechanisms from the lower to upper level, the upper to lower level and, horizontally, between services and activity areas.

To follow-up on these major orientations, the President and the Secretary General proposed a new, simplified, less hierarchical organizational structure (as illustrated in the preceding administrative organization plan), which fosters the new chosen management approaches and improved service to the clientele. The mandate of certain administrative units was redefined, if not defined in the case of the new units. The President and the Secretary General also proceeded with several new appointments and some strategic recruitment. Finally, the Assembly named two associate secretaries general, who have the rank of assistant deputy minister, in order to reinforce the established management team and to prepare the next management generation.

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The following is an overview of the mandates that are accomplished by the various administrative units of the National Assembly:

Secretary General

The highest-ranking civil servant at the National Assembly is the Secretary General, who is also the Assembly's chief advisor to the President in the interpretation of parliamentary procedure. The Secretary General oversees and manages the personnel of the Assembly, sees to the administration of Routine Proceedings and exercises the other duties that are assigned to him by the Office of the National Assembly, of which he is the secretary.

Secretariat of the Office Directorate

It sees to the organization and follow-up of the proceedings of the Office and provides Members with all of the information concerning their working conditions and the services that are available to them.

Coordinating Unit for Organizational and Strategic Projects

It ensures secretarial services to the Management Committee and the Directors Conference and coordinates on behalf of the authorities major organizational projects.

Office of the Associate Secretary General for Parliamentary and Institutional Affairs

It coordinates, plans, and controls the activities of the parliamentary and institutional affairs directorates and assists the Secretary General in his role of advisor to the Chair of the Assembly.

Legal and Legislative Affairs Directorate

It provides legal advice to the Assembly and provides professional services as regards the translation, editing and printing of all bills and annual statutes, and the preparation of Members' bills.

Documentary Studies Directorate

It carries out studies and research required by Members and administrative units, more particularly for the parliamentary committees and parliamentary relations.

Parliamentary Procedure Research Directorate

It assists the Secretary General in his role of advisor to the Chair, the Assembly and the parliamentary committees in matters of parliamentary procedure.

House Secretariat Directorate

It ensures the preparation, proper conduct and follow-up of the sittings of the Assembly. It assists the Secretary General in the preparation and coordination of the opening and closing of sessions.

Committees Secretariat Directorate

It ensures the organization and operations of the parliamentary committees by providing the professional and administrative services required for their activities.

Library Directorate

It ensures the conservation of parliamentary documents and the management of archives and facilitates the retrieval thereof. It is responsible for maintaining a collection which corresponds to current and future needs.

Communications Directorate

It promotes the outreach of the Assembly by informing the population of its democratic role. It is responsible for the communications of the institution and provides services to the Press Gallery journalists.

Educational Programmes Directorate

It designs, elaborates and carries out educational activities for target clienteles and provides professional and technical support during parliamentary simulations.

Protocol and Visitor Services Directorate

It ensures the coordination of protocolar activities and ceremonies at the Assembly and is responsible for visitors and information services, as well as for guided tours.

Interparliamentary and International Relations Directorate

It advises the authorities on interparliamentary and international relations and coordinates the activities of the Assembly in this sector.

Office of the Associate Secretary General for Administrative Affairs

It plans, directs, coordinates and controls the activities of the administrative sector directorates. It coordinates the implementation of the information technologies at the Assembly.

Administrative Assistant

He assists the Associate Secretary General for Administrative Affairs in the management of administrative files, takes part in working committees, carries out studies and analyses and reviews the work procedures and methods of all of the units in the administrative sector.

Coordinating Unit for Administrative Affairs

It coordinates special projects in the matter of technology (including Internet and the intranet network), sees to the application of the Assembly's computer security policy and is responsible for the development of GIRES (integrated resources management).

Debate Broadcasting Directorate

It is responsible for the broadcasting of the parliamentary proceedings, the press conferences and certain special events, and for the audio recording for the purpose of transcribing, revising, editing and publishing the *Journal des débats* (Hansard).

Building Management Directorate

It provides services and goods in matters of building management, planning and telecommunications.

Computer Services Directorate

It guides, counsels and provides office automation and computer services (software, applications, material, training) and ensures the management of the computer installations and of the local and extended networks.

Financial Resources and Supply Services Directorate

It counsels and provides services to the administrative units and the Members as regards financial management, budget planning and accounting operations. It also provides supply services.

Human Resources Directorate

It coordinates the operations and the support and counselling services vested in the management of human resources for the administrative units and the Members.

Material Resources and Restaurants Directorate

It provides support to Members and to the administrative units, particularly as regards mail delivery and messenger services, printing, reproduction and

distribution of documents, and also provides office equipment. It is also responsible for food services and restaurants management.

Security Directorate
It counsels the President on security measures and ensures the protection of persons and goods as well as the security of buildings and offices at the Assembly.

The personnel

The political sector comprises **480** persons, both on Parliament Hill and in the riding offices.

For its part, the administrative sector of the Assembly has **593** persons who come under two categories: permanent employees (65 %) and casual employees (35 %). Preceded by the measures implemented in the public service to regularize the situation involving the casual staff members who work on a regular basis, 110 casual employees were given permanent status in July 2000. These persons had accumulated over 5 years of service at the National Assembly since July 1993.

The National Assembly, as an employer, is required to implement the *Act to foster the development of manpower training* and thus set aside 1 % of its wage bill for the purpose of providing training and advanced courses for its staff. During the 2000-2001 fiscal year, the Assembly surpassed the standard stipulated in the Act by devoting 1.5 % of its wage bill to the Annual Human Resources Development Plan.

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The Employee Assistance Programme enables the administrative personnel requiring help to benefit from professional services in the form of individual counseling. In 2000-2001, some thirty people had recourse to this programme.

In compliance with the management measures established in the public service, 32 employees of the National Assembly chose to retire in the year 2000. During the past four years, over 110 employees thus went into retirement, which represents more than 30 % of the staff.

Furthermore, the Assembly welcomed 22 new employees in 2000-2001.

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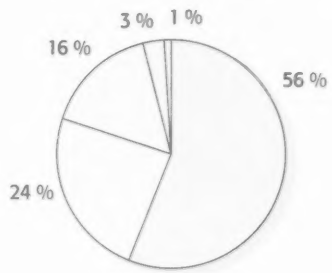
The training and information sessions for the administrative personnel continued this year. The first one was held on 15 May 2000, on which date a tour of the lesser-known areas in and around the Assembly enabled **266** persons to literally pass from the basement to the attic. One of the most appreciated parts of the tour was the visit of the central tower of the Assembly where, once inside, visitors discovered one of the oldest clocks in Québec in the company of the clockmaker who is responsible for its maintenance, and for whom it was an ideal occasion to provide several details on its history and operation. Then, on 30 October 2000, the standing committees welcomed **284** persons to a session on the role and operation of the standing committees and on the legislative process.

Personnel – administrative sector



Public servants	56 %
Professionals	24 %
Workers	16 %
Senior executives	3 %
Middle executives	1 %

54 % women	**46 %** men

In most institutions, individuals having certain specific duties wear a uniform, which enables them to be more easily identified. At the National Assembly, this is the case for the employees of nine directorates, including the pages, the personnel from the mail and messenger services, protocol and visitors' services, restaurants, gift shop, the material handlers, the workers, the storeroom clerks, the office equipment maintenance personnel and the security staff. In the course of the 2000-2001 fiscal year, uniforms for all departments were renewed. This collective effort undertaken by a group of persons working in collaboration with a Québec designer, Mrs. Line Bussière, resulted in a choice of clothing that now takes into account the specific duties performed by each person as well as the changing of the seasons, while providing the distinctive image of the institution.

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The following sixteen employees attained 25 years of service at the National Assembly this year:

Benoît Bernier

Louise Côté

Francine Drouin

Richard Langlais

Benoît Breton

Gaston Deschênes

Michel Guérard

Jean-Yves Légaré

Ginette B. Brisson

Daniel Deslauriers

Régent Hébert

André Rappard

Céline Carpentier

Denis Desmeules

Claude Lajoie

Jean Vaudreuil

National Assembly Expenditure 2000-2001

	Expenditures ($000)	Authorized staff	
		Permanent employees*	Casual employees*
Office of the Secretary General and Associate Secretaries			
Secretary General and Associate Secretaries	965.6	10	2
Legal and Legislative Affairs Directorate	994.8	18	3
Communications Directorate	1207.0	18	4
Protocol and Visitor Services Directorate	1504.0	18	9
Interparliamentary Relations Directorate	2555.6	12	12
	7227.0	**76**	**30**
Parliamentary Affairs			
House Secretariat Directorate	573.9	8	4
Committees Secretariat Directorate	1156.4	19	2
Parliamentary Procedure Research Directorate	334.8	6	0
Library and Documentary Studies Directorate	3489.0	62	5
	5554.1	**95**	**11**
Administrative Management			
Human Resources Directorate	6336.5	18	0
Financial Resources Directorate	918.5	20	0
Debate Broadcasting Directorate	3500.6	51	22
Security Directorate	1377.0	25	11
	12,132.6	**114**	**33**
Material and Technical Support			
Material Resources General Directorate	191.8	3	0
Building Management and Restaurants Directorate	5938.3	32	17
Computer and Auxiliary Services Directorate	4561.8	81	13
	10,691.9	**116**	**30**
Statutory support services to Members (see also appendix)	**37,754.1**		
Fixed assets depreciation	3772.0		
Total expenses	**77, 131.7**	**401**	**104**

* The figures indicated here correspond to the authorized full-time equivalents.

APPENDICES

List of Bills Passed in 2000-2001

Public Bills Introduced by the Government

1 An Act to amend the Election Act and other legislative provisions
3 Appropriation Act No. 1, 2001-2002
4 Appropriation Act No. 5, 2000-2001
6 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Société de la Place des Arts de Montréal and the Act respecting the Société du Grand Théâtre de Québec
29 An Act to amend the Taxation Act and other legislative provisions (modified title)
82 Public Administration Act
86 Police Act
87 An Act to amend the Professional Code and other legislative provisions
93 Dam Safety Act
94 Financial Administration Act
97 An Act to amend the Taxation Act and other legislative provisions of a fiscal nature
99 An Act respecting the exercise of the fundamental rights and prerogatives of the Québec people and of the Québec State (reprint)
100 An Act to amend the Act respecting university foundations
102 An Act to amend the Supplemental Pension Plans Act and other legislative provisions (modified title)
103 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Société québécoise de récupération et de recyclage
105 An Act to regulate the forest management activities of holders of timber supply and forest management agreements for the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002
107 An Act to provide for balanced budgets in the public health and social services network
108 Appropriation Act No. 3, 2000-2001
109 An Act respecting the Office Québec-Amériques pour la jeunesse
110 An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning municipal affairs
111 An Act respecting the transfer of ownership of an immovable to the Commission scolaire de Montréal and amending the Education Act
112 Fire Safety Act
114 An Act to amend the Cinema Act
115 An Act to amend the Civil Code and other legislative provisions relating to land registration
116 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Régie de l'énergie and other legislative provisions
117 An Act to amend the Act respecting prescription drug insurance and the Act respecting the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec
118 An Act to amend various legislative provisions respecting education as regards confessional matters
119 An Act to establish the Québec Youth Fund
120 An Act to amend the Animal Health Protection Act and other legislative provisions and to repeal the Bees Act
121 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère du Revenu and other legislative provisions (modified title)
123 An Act to amend the Agricultural Products, Marine Products and Food Act and other legislative provisions and to repeal the Dairy Products and Dairy Products
124 An Act to amend the Act respecting municipal territorial organization and other legislative provisions
125 An Act respecting Nasdaq Stock exchange activities in Québec
126 An Act respecting financial services cooperatives

127 An Act to amend the Tourist Establishments Act
128 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère de la Famille et de l'Enfance
129 An Act to prohibit commercial advertising along certain thoroughfares
130 An Act to amend the Highway Safety Code (modified title)
131 An Act to amend the pension plans of the public and parapublic sectors
132 An Act to amend the Architects Act
133 An Act to amend the Act respecting health services and social services concerning the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach
134 An Act respecting the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal
135 An Act to amend the Transport Act
139 Notaries Act
141 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère du Revenu as regards the suspension of recovery measures
142 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère des Transports
143 An Act respecting equal access to employment in public bodies and amending the Charter of human rights and freedoms
144 An Act respecting La Financière agricole du Québec
146 An Act to amend the Act respecting school elections and the Election Act
148 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère de l'Environnement and the Environment Quality Act (modified title)
150 An Act to again amend various legislative provisions respecting municipal affairs
151 An Act to amend the Maritimes Fisheries Credit Act
152 An Act to amend the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife and the Act respecting hunting and fishing rights in the James Bay and New Québec territories
153 An Act to amend the Crop Insurance Act
155 An Act respecting the Société d'Investissement Jeunesse
157 An Act to order the resumption of certain road freight transport services
158 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère de la Justice
164 An Act respecting transport infrastructure partnerships
168 An Act to amend the Act respecting the conditions of employment and the pension plan of the Members of the National Assembly
170 An Act to reform the municipal territorial organization of the metropolitan regions of Montréal, Québec and the Outaouais
171 An Act to amend the Charter of the French language
172 An Act to amend the Highway Safety Code and the Automobile Insurance Act
176 Appropriation Act No. 4, 2000-2001
183 An Act respecting the resumption of normal public transport service in the territory of the Société de transport de la Communauté urbaine de Québec
186 An Act to provide for the maintenance of pharmaceutical services in Québec *(modified title)*

Private Members' Public Bills

197 An Act respecting the practice of the sport of hockey by young players of the municipality of Saint-Ignace-de-Stanbridge
392 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant

Private Bills

225 An Act respecting the annexation of a territory to the territory of Ville de Lachute
227 An Act respecting La Société Aéroportuaire de Québec
228 An Act to amend the Act respecting the charter of the Coopérative fédérée de Québec

231 An Act respecting Municipalité de Deauville
232 An Act respecting Municipalité de Saint-Mathias-sur-Richelieu
233 An Act respecting Ville de Verdun
234 An Act respecting Ville de Varennes
235 An Act respecting Ville de Sainte-Thérèse
236 An Act to amend the Act respecting Beloeil Golf Club
237 An Act respecting Seven Islands Curling Club Inc.
238 An Act respecting the Mouvement Desjardins

List of standing committee mandates completed during the 2000-2001 fiscal year

Committee on Public Administration

Accountability of deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public agencies with regard to:
- the coordination and funding of research in health and of social research
- the management of social and economic repercussions related to games of chance and gambling
- the management of the sales tax
- the income tax of companies and the development of information systems at the Revenue Ministry
- the management of student aid
- the follow-up of the recommendations made by the Auditor General
- the establishment of Emploi-Québec
- the fund for the fight against poverty via work reintegration

Other mandates:
- Hearing of the Auditor General of Québec within the framework of the examination of his annual report and financial commitments
- Election of the vice-chairman of the Committee
- Election of the chairman and vice-chairman of the Committee

Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Clause-by-clause consideration: 8 public bills

Examination of the 2000-2001 estimates of expenditure

Interpellation:
- Agriculture and food in the 21st century

Order of initiative of the Committee:
- Hearing of Jules Brière, barrister, on the application of the *Act to amend the Act to preserve agricultural land and other legislative provisions in order to promote the preservation of agricultural activities*

Other mandates:
- Election of the chairman of the Committee
- Election of the chairman and vice-chairman of the Committee

Committee on Social Affairs

Clause-by-clause consideration: 6 public bills

Examination of the 2000-2001 estimates of expenditure

Interpellation:
- The Government's lack of action with regard to youth protection

Surveillance of agencies:
- Hearing of the health and social services complaints commissioner and of the Agence d'évaluation des technologies et des modes d'intervention en santé

Other mandates:
- Hearings of the Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean, Laurentides, Laval, Outaouais, Bas-Saint-Laurent, Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine and Côte-Nord Regional Health and Social Services Boards within the framework of the examination of their 1997-1998 and 1998-1999 annual reports
- Election of the chairman and vice-chairman of the Committee

Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

Clause-by-clause consideration: 7 public bills 6 private bills

Examination of the 2000-2001 estimates of expenditure

Interpellations:
- The municipal reform
- Violence in hockey
- The negative effects of the municipal reorganization on the citizens of Québec

Other mandates:
- Hearing of the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec
- Election of the chairman and vice-chairman of the Committee

Committee on Culture

Clause-by-clause consideration: 4 public bills

Examination of the 2000-2001 estimates of expenditure

Surveillance of agencies:
- Hearings on the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec and on the Société de développement des entreprises culturelles

Other mandates:
- Examination of the triennial immigration plan for 2001-2003
- Hearing concerning the impact of ownership transfers in the media and telecommunications industry on quality, diversity, flow of information and Québec culture
- Examination of the triennial plan of Télé-Québec 2000-2003
- Hearing of the Commission d'accès à l'information within the framework of its 1999-2000 annual report
- Holding of a seminar whose theme was «Globalization: Threat or opportunity for the national cultures».
- Election of the chairman and vice-chairman of the Committee

Committee on Education

Clause-by-clause consideration: 4 public bills

Examination of the 2000-2001 estimates of expenditure

Other mandates:
- Election of the vice-chairman of the Committee
- Election of the chairman and vice-chairman of the Committee

Committee on Labour and the Economy

Clause-by-clause consideration: 7 public bills 1 private bill

Examination of the 2000-2001 estimates of expenditure

Interpellations:
- The issues regarding electronic commerce
- The energy policy

Other mandates:
- Examination of the draft bill entitled «An Act respecting the legal normalization of new information technologies»
- Examination of the report on the application of sections 2 and 14 of the Act to amend the Labour Code

- Examination of the five-year report 1995-2000 and the 1997-1998 and 1998-1999 annual reports of the Fonds national de formation de la main-d'oeuvre
- Election of the chairman and vice-chairman of the Committee

Committee on Public Finance

Clause-by-clause consideration: 10 public bills 3 private bills

Examination of the 2000-2001 estimates of expenditure

Interpellation:
- The presumption of guilt of taxpayers by the Revenue Ministry

Surveillance of agencies:
- Examination of the activities, orientations and management of Loto-Québec

Order of initiative of the Committee:
- Examination of lobbying activities

Other mandates:
- Election of the chairman of the Committee
- Election of the chairman and vice-chairman of the Committee

Committee on Institutions

Clause-by-clause consideration: 13 public bills

Examination of the 2000-2001 estimates of expenditure

Interpellation:
- The mandate given to the Laval police concerning the investigation on the collapse of the overpass on Highway 15

Orders of initiative of the Committee:
- Examination of the impacts of the Free Trade Area of the Americas project
- Hearing on the report from the Committee on «The political and socioeconomic effects of the Free Trade Area of the Americas»

Other mandates:
- Police reorganization
- Election of the chairman and vice-chairman of the Committee

Committee on Transportation and the Environment

Clause-by-clause consideration: 13 public bills 1 private bill

Examination of the 2000-2001 estimates of expenditure

Other mandate:
- Election of the chairman and vice-chairman of the Committee

Allowances and amounts granted to Members in 2000-2001

WAGE BILL OF MEMBERS:

Regular remuneration (includes base allowance and additional allowance)	$9,300,837

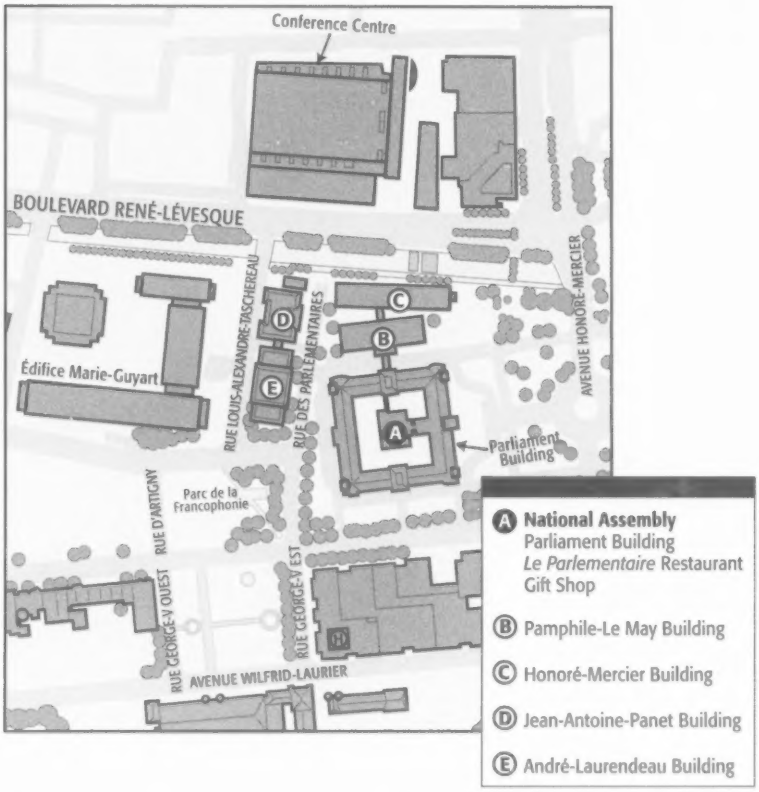
OTHER ALLOWANCES:

Allowances for expenses, attendance and political activities	$2,541,986
Transition allowances (includes allowances granted when Member leaves)	$466,638
Travel from electoral riding to the Parliament Building	$1,099,236
Lodging in or around Québec City	$1,217,983
Additional allowance for the purchase of furniture or office equipment during the first term in office	$2594
Electoral riding office operation expenses	$3,426,532

OTHER EXPENSES:

	Members' staff	Offices of Members holding parliamentary functions	Total
Wage bill	$9,491,099	$5,072,926	$14,564,025
Travel expenses	$237,800	$484,603	$722,403
Research services of political parties			$1,451,518

Some practical information



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Fax: (418) 641-2638
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GUIDED TOURS
Schedule*
Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
June 23 to Labour Day
Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays, 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Reservations are required for groups of 10 or more.

Information
Telephone: (418) 643-7239
Fax: (418) 646-4271

RESTAURANT LE PARLEMENTAIRE
Opening hours*
Tuesday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
June and December
Tuesday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
June 26 to Labour Day
Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Reservations
Telephone: (418) 643-6640
Fax: (418) 643-6378
E-mail: resto@assnat.qc.ca

LA BOUTIQUE
Opening hours*
Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
June 23 to Labour Day
Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Information
Telephone: (418) 643-8785
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*May be changed without notice

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